

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

History, it has been said, is not what actually happened but what was recorded! This is true of many things and no doubt there are comments or numbers in this document that may not be true and correct.

The reason for sharing this document is to provide lacrosseurs past and present with information on the history of lacrosse in Australia, but this is written from information gathered mainly by Victorians, thus its focus was on Victoria, as is its natural bias, but does provide a lot of information about men's lacrosse in all states and a little bit about women's lacrosse. This document has come a long way from what we were provided in hand written manuscripts for various periods from 1876, and no doubt still contains errors of fact or spelling. If you can help with correcting any errors or filling in any gaps we would appreciate you contacting us. With some help from our lacrosse brothers and sisters in all states it can one day tell the story of lacrosse in Australia from many perspectives and include far more information and knowledge than we have provided in this document.

Our intention longer term, with the cooperation of all interested lacrosseurs in Australia, is to develop a book on the history of lacrosse in Australia, covering men's and women's lacrosse, all states and all types of lacrosse played.

I trust you find the early years as fascinating as we have. Lacrosse was once a significant sport in Australia, played on such great venues as the MCG, SCG, the WACA and Adelaide Oval. It had in its early days as patrons people in such high positions as Governors, Chief Justices, federal and state politicians. It was played in every state in Australia and hosted its first international tour of a Canadian team in 1907 where over 14,000 spectators witnessed a game of lacrosse on the MCG and other great venues.

Lacrosse is a wonderful game with a proud heritage passed on to us by the North American Indians. We thank them for sharing this great game with us.

The vast majority of this document would not have been possible without the invaluable contribution of the major author, the late Horrie Webber, who provided the vast majority of the information in this document, thus it has started out from a Victorian perspective and information primarily from Victorian records. As this document has evolved it now includes quite a lot of information and photos from other sources, so perhaps it is emerging as a nationally focused document.

We, Bill Gray Jnr and John Nolan, have merely facilitated typing, editing, correction and tracked down people with knowledge or records to fill in gaps or provide information that was lacking. This is a living document and will continue to evolve with the inclusion of information beyond 1994, historical photographs and no doubt historical information and photos from other states of Australia.

Please feel free to use this document as you see fit, it is not meant to be a secret, we want to spread lacrosse and its wonderful history, to be a growing sport and this magnificent history may help.

We have very little history on women's lacrosse, if you have any records, information or photos, we would love to see them and include any relevant information in the document we have commenced on women's lacrosse.

If you want to contact us to provide information, fill in gaps or ask questions, please contact us as follows:-

Bill Gray gray.gdc@gmail.com

John Nolan nolanj@bigpond.net.au

**A HISTORY OF MEN'S LACROSSE IN
AUSTRALIA
1876-1994**

**by Horrie Webber
Published posthumously with editing and additions by John Nolan & Bill
Gray
Melbourne 2015**

Much use is made these days of the term "Multi-cultural" but Victoria in the second half of the 19th century was already multi-cultural. Immigrants from many countries and of various skin-pigments had entered the colonies in search of wealth, health or political freedom. The various streams of migrant brought with them their social customs, religious dogma and pastimes. German migrants, for instance, brought with them their gymnasia and their liedertafels (German musical concert). The French were not at that time greatly devoted to sport, and their contribution was to painting, sculpture, music and philosophy. Later they became leaders in aeronautics and bicycling. Many of these multi-cultural interests became woven permanently into the fabric of the society of the colony of Victoria. Such athletic pastimes as immigrants from countries other than Great Britain brought with them survived with difficulty against the traditional Anglo-Saxon pastimes such as horse-racing, cricket, football and rowing. Of those that retained their particular characteristics and retain to this day a loyal though perhaps esoteric following, is lacrosse. This game was played in a rudimentary form when the first Englishmen made the acquaintance of the "Indians" of Canada. It was soon adopted as the national sport of Canada, and from there it made its way to Australia.

Among the many inhabitants of the Victorian goldfields there were some Canadians. According to the Historical Atlas of Australia (Fairfax, Syme & Weldon Associates, 1887) about 1% of the population of Australia in 1861, had been born in Canada. No doubt many were attracted to the "diggings". Among the Canadians to be found in the gold-fields was Dr. Mount, of Ballarat, having arrived there in 1853. His claim for distinction, for he does not feature in the records of the Australian Encyclopedia, is that he was the father of a boy in his time who became renowned as an amateur pedestrian (Sprinter or middle distance runner), Lambton Le Breton Mount, the rival for amateur fame of the illustrious H.C. Harrison. The boy was born in Montreal in 1839, and arrived in Victoria in 1853. He was therefore about fourteen years old, at an age when boys are subject to home-sickness, and when recollection tends to magnify places and romanticise people and events. At the age of fourteen he would have developed some degree of skill at the national game of his native land.

He became a notable pedestrian, as his contests with H.C. Harrison for the Amateur Championship of Victoria testify; but he achieved no distinction in the other games of Anglo-Saxon origin, though he was at one time a member of the Melbourne Cricket Club, but the memory of the games of his boyhood remained vivid. He, like Wills, Harrison and others, found that the winter season offered little in the way of manly exercise for vigorous young men. The Melbourne athletic coterie directed their energies towards establishing an indigenous form of football. Lambton Mount set about arousing interest in the game of his boyhood, and, with this in mind, he wrote a letter to "The Australasian", which was published in the issue of 8 April, 1876. It read:

"The Game of Lacrosse"

"To the Editor of the Australasian,

Sir,

Very many years ago, when a small boy in Canada, I used to watch with rapturous excitement, the Red Indians, tribe against tribe, play the game of Lacrosse, and always yearned impatiently for the time when I would be big enough to play also, for it was then a select game, and small boys did not aspire to more than imitate it in a bastard manner by playing shinny, or shinty, or hockey or whatever you like; but migrating to this colony while yet a lad, the feverish scenes of the golden days completely banished it from my mind, until about six months ago, while watching the final match of the football season between the Carlton and the Melbourne football clubs, it occurred to me what a superior game Lacrosse was, and I then resolved to take steps to initiate it in Victoria. By the following mail, I sent a message to Canada for 40 La Crosse sticks, and the rules of the game. Now follows a strange coincidence. By the incoming mail from England, arriving here about mid-October last, came the Illustrated London News dated 16 October 1875, containing a large picture of "The Game of La Crosse as played in Canada", and on page 375 a description of the game, and some interesting remarks thereon, which with your permission I will now copy. "This excellent outdoor pastime is the national game of Lower Canada, where it was learnt by the French from the Indians, before the English

conquest. Mr W. Cruickshank, of Toronto, up to which city it was passed from Montreal, contributes a sketch which requires but little explanation. Two goals, each six feet wide and six feet high, are placed several hundred yards apart, between which are the players of the respective sides, opposed to each other in pairs. The ball is started by the captains exactly in the middle of the field, and play begins. The position of the players is now entirely at discretion, or subject to the directions of their captain. The ball may not be touched with the hands or feet, but it is shovelled off the ground or "caught on the fly" by a crosse, which is a very primitive racquet-bat of Indian manufacture. The "crosse-stick" is about 4 feet 6 inches long, and has a large curve on itself at one end. From the tip of the curve to about the middle of the straight part there is a cat-gut "leading-string", and the interspace is netted with gut, so that you have a kind of racquet, only the net-work is wider and longer, and the handle is longer. The goals may be from 150 yards to a mile or more apart, according to the number playing. The object of the game is to urge the ball between the posts by means of the crosse. You must not touch the ball with your hands, but must always stop it, pick it up, carry it, and then throw it with your crosse. The ball is of India-rubber sponge, for solid India rubber would be too heavy, weighs about 4 ozs, and must be between 8 inches and 9 inches in circumference. With skilful players on both sides the game may be protracted for hours, the ball going almost through the goal many times. When caught by the keeper it goes to the other end of the ground with a whiz like a stone from a sling, for a moment putting a new aspect on affairs. When a runner is pressed, he will toss the ball up, then wheel around, and catch it at the back of his pursuers, or play it into the hand of his supports, as shown in the sketch. That the game is of Indian origin accounts for it being all running and dodging. Some of these people were in a match lately played in Toronto, which resulted in favour of the Indians. It is said that next spring 13 Iroquois Indians and 13 Canadian gentlemen propose to make a tour through England, Ireland and Scotland in order to show how the game should be played. We are assured that a match between these 2 teams will be worth going to see. Many noblemen, Members of Parliament and other gentlemen have promised their support. The late General Sir Ian Lindsay expressed a great desire to see the game introduced into our public schools. The Montreal La Crosse Club has the honour of having the Prince of Wales and Prince Arthur as honorary members. Both princes were delighted with the games played before them in Montreal. The game has been tried during the past summer by the Hare and Hounds Club on Wimbledon Common. Well, sir, it is not very probable that the 13 Iroquois Indians and the 13 Canadian gentlemen above mentioned will visit Australia to show us how the game is played; neither is it reasonable for, from the foregoing explanation, and from my own recollection and knowledge of the game, I feel assured it can soon be played as faithfully and as well here as in Canada. My object in now writing to you is to give publicity to the game, and prominence to the fact that I intend calling a meeting of my friends and acquaintances and others anxious to initiate the game, at the Port Phillip Club Hotel (Situated then in Flinders Street, a few hundred metres from Young & Jacksons Hotel) on Wednesday, 12 April, for the purpose of establishing the Melbourne La Crosse Club. I have a genuine Indian La Crosse stick in my possession, which I will produce at the meeting. It is a simple, light and inexpensive affair, and similar ones can, I think be made here for about 7/6d each. In the meantime, I am daily expecting to hear of the arrival of the 40 ordered from Canada. The sponge India-rubber ball and the ordinary goal posts and flags comprise the rest of the simple paraphernalia necessary to play this game. A tolerable level ground, 11 swift and dexterous men staunch and true, on each side, and the "shouting throng to urge you along" will display you a game electrifying in its phases, exciting in its struggles, and highly interesting to its spectators.

Yours etc.

Lambton L. Mount."

Thus great advances are made: great movements arise often in a single mind. The inspiration is communicated to a small band of sympathetic colleagues. It then infects multitudes. There was a movement begun by an undistinguished inhabitant of Galilee; it was transmitted to his eleven friends (a twelfth was a foreigner and defected); eventually it followed the ancient Roman roads to every distant part of the civilised world. The leader saw his strategy clearly; start it at home; set it free among your neighbours, and then let its spread: Jerusalem, Judea, and the uttermost parts of the earth,

he said. Lambton Mount's appeal to his friends and acquaintances brought a ready response. Within two months, by 14 June 1876 a Melbourne La Crosse Club had been formed. The following notice appeared in "The Australasian" of 24 June 1876:

"The first practice game of the newly formed La Crosse Club took place on last Saturday afternoon, in Albert Park. The unfavourable nature of the weather militated against the attendance of members, of whom 15-20 put in an appearance. There was, however, a fair attendance of the public present, who were anxious to see and learn the mysteries of the new game. Owing to the rules of the game not being understood there was an amount of awkwardness exhibited by some of the players which will not be noticeable when further practice is indulged in. One or two of the players attempted to strike the ball with the crosse, which resulted in that instrument of warfare coming to a "smash". They should remember that the ball must be slung out of the network attached to the stick, not propelled by means of a blow. The new sticks answered well in the hands of those who used them properly, but, were long, a good stock of better crooks, together with balls &c. will arrive from Canada, the home of the game. During the week a few members of the awkward squad have been out practising with crosse and ball, with the view of getting into good form before the next practice game.

The Melbourne La Crosse Club will play a scratch match this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Members are requested to be present not later than that hour, so as to choose sides. The crosses ordered from Canada are daily expected by the American barque, "Obed Baxter". Those made here are a very good substitute, though hardly up to what the imported ones are expected to be."

The ripples were spreading. Lambton Mount had inspired enough of his friends to establish a La Crosse Club. It remained to be seen whether the interest was ephemeral, or whether a seed had been sown that would go on developing, increasing in strength and range.

The La Crosse Club continued at least till the following year, and it would appear that the game was generating interest. On 11 August 1877 the following report appeared in "The Australasian".

La Crosse

by 'Checker'

A number of visitors were attracted to the Melbourne La Crosse Club's ground at Albert Park on Saturday afternoon, when another match between the Reds and the Blues was contested. The Reds were well represented on this occasion, and hopes were entertained that they would be able to carry their colours to victory; but they were doomed to disappointment, for when the game was concluded the Blues had secured 7 goals to their opponents' 3. The play was commenced by Slatter and Chapman facing for the ball, the former gaining the advantage and, immediately getting the ball, he made a well directed shot for the blue flags. The rubber was well stopped, and the reds kept it in front of the blue posts for a time, and then succeeded in scoring the first goal, the ball being sent through Nicholls in a very simple manner. On being thrown off it was again returned to the blue ground, and after some very good defence by the Blues, Norcott landed the second goal for the Reds. The captain of the Blues then altered the position of some of his men, and this movement had the desirable effect. The play was confined to the centre for a time, when Chapman took the ball forward to the red posts, where Lyons got possession, and passing it to Chapman, that player ran with it into the red crease, and landed it just over the goal-keeper's head. The play was again forced to the vicinity of the red posts, when Lyons got possession, and by some neat and pretty dodging, he sent it between the posts. He soon afterwards secured another goal for the Blues, repeating the same dodging play. Considering that the posts were well guarded on each occasion, this was a creditable performance. The ball was kept at the opposite end, and several ineffectual shots were made for goal. Slatter, aiming another grounder, and, had not the legs of the goal-keeper been in the way, the ball would have passed between the posts. Several times was the rubber in dangerous proximity to the Blues posts, owing to the ill-judged and defective throwing-off which took place, but the Blues made a stubborn defence, and Slatter at length essayed a long shot, which was effective this time. This was a beautifully judged throw from the south side of the goal, distant about 35 yards, and took the Blues

somewhat by surprise. From this time to the conclusion of the play the Blues had the game pretty much to themselves, 4 goals in succession being scored by Cameron. Both Reds and Blues played a fine game during the first part of this match -- the dodging, throwing, checking and defence of either side being some of the best since these contests were inaugurated. The Red team was strong, Mount being the only effective absentee; but, as a sort of a set-off, Norcott, who has been absent from the city for some months, put in an appearance, and, though he was not in his usual form he did very serviceable work for his colour. With such a good Red team, the Blues were never expected to win the match, and, had both sides continued the fine play with which the game commenced a very tough struggle would have ensued. As it was, the Reds appeared to fall off considerably after the first part, and seemed quite unable to protect their goal. Slatter's long throwing at goal proved the most effective work for the, and this was really good. Cameron, in playing home, might have added 1 or 2 more goals to the credit of the Blues, but he appeared over-anxious, and unwilling or unable to pass to the other home men when the opportunity offered. It was this neat passing between the home men of the Blues which formed the feature of the previous Saturday's match, and were more of it indulged in it would have been a better effect. It is due to Cameron to say that his goals were not all got with ease. He played well enough at times in dodging and outpacing his checkers, but he assayed too many dodges. The players who distinguished themselves by their exertions were Mitchell, Beech, Heale, Cottrell and Walker for the Reds, and Parsons, Fraser, Barclay and Evielle for the Blues."

This report is worth quoting fully, for it indicates five aspects of the development of La Crosse as part of the athletic activities of Melbourne.

- (a) The game had caught the interest of the Melbourne public enough to attract a significant number of spectators.
- (b) The Melbourne La Crosse Club was flourishing in its second season;
- (c) "The Australasian believed that there was a sufficient public following to devote half a column of space weekly to report on the game:
- (d) The reporter of the game discusses techniques, strategies and tactics.
For space to be devoted to commentary of this kind, we may safely assume that there were enough people who understood this commentary;
- (e) The last report for the season ends on an optimistic note: "I understand," "Checker" states, "that the club's numbers will be considerably augmented next season, and that it is not impossible that another club will be formed"

The game in 1878 took up where it had left off in 1877. The Melbourne La Crosse Club divided itself into two parties, the Reds and the Blues, thus continuing the arrangement for 1877. At the annual meeting of the La Crosse Club "the names of new players were enrolled". As "Checker" reported for the Australasian, this allowed generous space for reports on the game. On 1 June 1878, "Checker" wrote that the match took place on the South Melbourne Cricket Ground. A good attendance from both parties, the Reds and the Blues, took part in the game. On 22 June 1878 an innovation was introduced. Blues and Reds playing each other continuously might end by becoming uninspiring. To add a touch of emulation to their contests it was proposed that a trophy be presented to each member of the winning team at the end of the season. The first match concerned with the trophies was played at Albert Park. For this match the respective teams appeared in official uniforms, which inspired "Checker" to write: "I do not remember to have seen the La Crosse ground at Albert Park present such a pretty appearance, the neat uniforms of the players (numbering 15 Blues and 13 Reds) contrasting with the bright green turf....."

A reference in "Checker's" report for 5 October suggests that interest in the game of La Crosse was being shown in other places than Melbourne. "A number of La Crosse players," he stated, "having expressed a desire to visit Geelong before the season closed, the following Saturday was chosen as most convenient to the players and teams of eleven a side proceeded there, and engaged in a match on the Corio Cricket Ground, which had been placed at the disposal of the Blues by the Cricket Club." Some details of the game are provided, but the scattered showers and the cold winds probably deterred many spectators from attending. The La Crosse season ended, as was reported by the

"Australasian" of the nineteenth of October, with the 14th match for the trophies. The Reds won this deciding game, and thus became the possessors of the medals.

The next year saw another important development. Under the heading of "Athletic Sports, on 5 April, 1879, "The Australasian" reported the formation of the South Melbourne La Crosse Club. Office bearers were elected, a subscription of seven shillings and sixpence was passed, and the colours of the Club, light blue stockings and cap, navy blue knickerbockers and white guernsey was determined upon the meeting adjourned to Tuesday, 18 April, when the Committee would bring up the rules and the by-laws. On 14 October, the annual meeting of the Melbourne La Crosse Club was reported. Office-bearers were elected. It was especially remarked that the Melbourne La Crosse Club was the pioneer club of La Crosse in the colony, and that those who had taken prominent parts in the formation of suburban clubs had gained the experience which enabled them to take a leading position (in the new clubs) in the ranks of the Melbourne Club."

From this comment we may infer that other clubs had been formed. In "The Australasian" of 21 July 1879 we find support for this inference. A new pen had evidently taken up the cause of La Crosse, for this article came under the by-line of "Centre". He stated, "Thanks to the energy of the original promoters, seconded by the kind assistance of public press, this game has now obtained a firm footing in Melbourne. In lieu of one club numbering about 35 members, there are now four, with a roll of about 120, South Melbourne heading the list with over 40, Fitzroy and Carlton number about 30 each, and Melbourne 20. The latter was the original club, but its members divided themselves equally among the four, so that no club should be composed entirely of novices. Great credit is due to several players who, for the good of the game, joined clubs out of the district in which they reside, though their natural inclination could lead them to assist a local club.

Two delegates from each club were appointed, to form an association, under whose auspices all matches this season will be played. His Excellency the Governor, has kindly consented to become its patron. Very shortly rules were passed and printed, and the programme of matches drawn out....".

The range of the game had now passed the limits of individual influence, and a single pioneering club, to an association of four clubs.

The new association continued the policy of publicity that it had inherited from the parent club. "The Australasian" of 4 October, 1879, stated:

"The Melbourne Cricket Ground will be occupied this afternoon by the La Crosse players, and, as hundreds of the residents of the metropolis have not had the opportunity of witnessing any of the matches which have been played this season, there will, doubtless, be a good attendance..." The Association closed the season by arranging an exhibition match between combined teams of Melbourne and Fitzroy Clubs against a team chosen from the Carlton and the South Melbourne clubs.

The 1880 season showed healthy progress. "Checker" reported in "The Australasian" of 8 May 1880: "It (La Crosse) has grown in popularity... and has a large following of young fellows, the great majority of whom possess all the activity which plenty of bone and muscle lend to the athlete... I can truthfully say, from what I have seen already, that the followers of La Crosse will compare favourably in physique with those in any kindred game. The uniform, too, that they have adopted are very pretty and tend to make the tout ensemble present a very pleasing appearance. It is now generally known that there are four clubs in existence..." This year was a period of general consolidation.

The next year brought more progress. "Fielder", in "The Australasian" of 14 May, 1881, reported: "All the clubs have got into thorough working order, and, to judge from appearances, a very prosperous season is to be looked for. A club has been brought into existence at Collingwood... Exertions are being used to establish a club at South Yarra. In fact, I understand, a meeting has been called for next Wednesday evening at the George Hotel, Prahran, and the promoters are very sanguine of success..."

These endeavours indicate a vigorous activity. The first four clubs were established largely through the endeavours of the original members of the Melbourne Club, which had voluntarily accepted a severe diminution of members so that the new clubs could have the nuclei of skill from which other players could learn. The proposed clubs at Collingwood and Prahran came about through a local interest in the game. "Filder's" report in "The Australasian" of 21 May 1881 gives evidence that the Collingwood club had indeed been formed, and that it had a group of players who were quickly mastering the skills and strategies of the game. There was an active missionary zeal evident among these pioneer La Crosse players: it was proposed on the Queen's Birthday weekend to take two teams to Kyneton to play an exhibition match. This would allow the young athletes of the Kyneton district to see the game played, and perhaps to form a club.

The 1882 season saw further advancement. "Checker", in "The Australasian" of 29 May 1882 reported that new clubs had been formed in St. Kilda, Richmond, Collingwood and Ballarat. The existing clubs reported strong recruitment. Of the Richmond Club, the report stated that Mr. George Coppin had been elected President. The Vice-Presidents were the Hon. L.L. Smith, M.L.A., and J Bosisto, M.L.A. This shows that men of standing were now giving encouragement of the game; or at any rate that the politicians calculated that the supporters of La Crosse were numerous enough to have an influence on the voting in the electorate.

The game had now spread widely enough to need a central authority. Mr R.H. Beere, secretary and treasurer at Richmond, was also appointed to the Victorian La Crosse Association. The Annual Report for the Melbourne La Crosse Club stated that Mr. J. Fox had been appointed as delegate to the Victorian La Crosse Association. Evidently administrators of the game recognised that the time had come when the central authority should represent the whole colony rather than only its metropolis "Checker" stated in the same report: "Since my last report the Association held its first meeting. At this meeting it accepted the cup which Mr Shapperehad kindly offered to present to the association giving loyal and inspiring leadership. Mr L.L. Mount, the founder of the game in Victoria, was Vice-President of the Melbourne Lacrosse Club.

The first matches for the premiership cup were reported in the "Australasian" of 27 May 1892, as having taken place the previous Saturday. On 17 June 1882 the report stated that the newly formed club at Ballarat had begun practice for their match against a metropolitan club, which was to take place on Separation Day.

An interesting letter appeared in "The Australasian" of 30 September, 1882. It came from the Rev. J.M. MacDonald, of the Chalmers Church, Montreal, who had recently accepted a call to this church. "As the game of the Red Men is becoming more popular in the Land of the Southern Cross, perhaps my friends who devote their superfluous energy to the game of La Crosse, would be glad to hear how it is played this summer in Montreal, the great headquarters of the game," he wrote.

"There was a certain degree of wild spirits in the game as played in Montreal. The match he described was between the Shamrocks of Montreal and the Red Men of Toronto. Mr MacDonald had anticipated that the "sons of Erin" would be too rough for the "gentle sons of the Wigwam", but "in reality the Red Men were as rough as the 14th Regiment, when Lieutenant Hayes' pets shattered the limbs of our Melbourne footballers. The Red Men made for the ball gallantly, but if a clever little Irishman dodged round the corner, before he got out of reach the copper warrior would let at him with his bat and hit him a smack on the head.... The Red Men ran well and were extraordinarily successful in stopping or checking, but if they ran too far, just as in football we Melbourne men used to run too far when the Carlton little marks and co-operation would have served us better. The Shamrocks also ran too far with the bat, but they availed themselves of every dodge, such as tennis shoes, etc, they stood their ground when the Indians fell and completely demonstrated the fact that the Britisher, if he sets his mind to it, can beat any man at the latter's own game."

Mr McDonald's letter indicated that Canadian La Crosse attracted considerable crowds. The game between the Independents and the Toronto team drew a crowd of about 6,000 people.

The game as played in Canada was much more active and skilful than in Melbourne. "When I was a Melbourne footballer" wrote Mr. MacDonald, "I used to think La Crosse a slow game, but after playing it at headquarters my views have changed. I now wonder how the Canadians can play such a fast, punishing game in summer, for the summer here feels quite as warm as January in the Riverina.... One game, and a brilliant one, to Toronto. This warmed up the Montrealers, players and spectators; the consequence was hard play for half an hour until a neat little Independent whisked the ball past the Toronto goal-keeper, who is as big as Charlie Forrester, the old "rock" of the M.F.C. gave all. At this stage the excitement was intense, but in a few minutes it became unbearable, for, after a foul had been called by the referee, the Independent scored a goal before the ball could be stopped, and refused to play were it not counted. The referee stood by the foul, and from this time onwards, the Independents tried to run the whole length of the ground, whereas the Toronto men played across to each other, caught the ball beautifully in their bats, and showed me several niceties I had failed to notice in Melbourne....."

The game in Canada at this time seems to have been marred by a surplus of officials. "Last Saturday", wrote Mr. MacDonald, "there were two captains (really officious umpires) then 2 field umpires, a referee and 2 goal umpires. Out in Australia we are a more genuinely sporting race, although Carlton did thrash us; and 2 goal umpires with a referee were quite competent to see fair play. Although not a player, I wish the Victorian clubs well and hope to see the game become more popular. The ordinary footballer scorns La Crosse because non-athletic; he will disabuse himself of that idea by taking a lacrosse bat in his hand and trying to play. Most of the dodges distinguishing a good from a bad player require both exertion and skill. The ball travels very fast from one end to the other; the teams are small, 12 as is; thus a man must keep in form."

Lacrosse was introduced to Adelaide by W.J. Wilkinson with lacrosse sticks acquired through family friends, The Adelaide Lacrosse Club was formed that year, 35 members enrolled and a provisional committee appointed, which included W. J. Wilkinson. No further mention is made of lacrosse in S.A. until 1885.

It is evident that there was room for improvement in the play of Melbourne exponents, but the game had become firmly established by 1883. There was an association in Melbourne consisting of eight clubs: Fitzroy, Richmond, South Melbourne, Melbourne, Carlton, University and South Yarra. On 5 May 1883 "The Australasian" reported that the premiership cup had been won by Fitzroy. The annual meeting was held at the Clarence Hotel on Friday evening, 27 April. Elected to various offices were Patron, His Excellency, the most Noble Marques of Normandy; President, Hon. James Balfour; Vice-presidents, L.L. Mount, H.P. Fergie; Hon. Treasurer, J.G. Barclay; the election to the office of Hon. Secretary was postponed, as the present incumbent was unable to continue owing to the pressure of other affairs. The delegates elected to the Association were: Melbourne, Fox and Northcott; Fitzroy, Clouston and Heale; Carlton, Barclay and Fraser; South Melbourne, Fookes and Tribe; Collingwood, Batchelor and Beagley; Richmond, Beere; South Yarra, Johnson. A club was now in active existence in Kew, and had obtained permission to use the Kew Recreation Ground for training and practice.

At this meeting, attention was drawn to the scarcity of lacrosse sticks. It was stated that arrangements had been made for a supply of Victorian made ones, pending a shipment from Canada, which had been requested by cable.

The Victorian Lacrosse Association maintained its zeal for spreading the game. In order to bring the game more prominently before the public the Association decided, as reported in "The Australasian" of 2 June 1883 to arrange exhibition matches on the grounds of metropolitan cricket clubs, and in the large country towns. On 24 May a party of players proceeded to Sandhurst, and played a game, which, in spite of the steady drizzle, attracted a crowd of between 800 and 900 spectators. The upshot of this exhibition was that arrangements were completed for forming a club there. As the season progressed exhibition matches were played at the east Melbourne Cricket Ground. At a meeting of the Association on Friday 13 July, communications were received of the formation of clubs at Eaglehawk, Sydney and Adelaide. The attempts of the Victorian Lacrosse Association to publicise the sport were meeting with success. At the end of the 1883 season "Checker" reported in "The Australasian" that "the curtain had fallen on the most successful season that the game had passed

through. The action of the Association in promoting the Exhibition match did the sport much service in bringing it before the public on a central and accessible ground, and, should the Association persevere in the same direction next year, it will prove the necessity of such a body, from the undeniable fact that it benefits the sport in general."

The premiership of the season was won by the South Melbourne club, who were thus entitled to the "Premiership Cup" and the trophies. The second annual dinner of the association, at which the trophies were presented, was held at Clement's Cafe on 26 October, 1883. It was attended by 100 gentlemen, and was a happy occasion.

It would appear that the Bendigo Lacrosse Club started in 1883 or earlier as there was an advertisement in the Bendigo Advertiser on 4 July 1883 – "The members of the Bendigo Lacrosse Club are requested to meet in the Upper Camp' Reserve this afternoon, at two o'clock sharp, when a scratch match will be played. Sides will be chosen on the ground, and a full attendance is requested".

The season of 1884 opened with the addition of four more clubs. Among the clubs mentioned in the fixtures for 1884 are the Bohemians, and on 5 July 1884 "Checker" noted that a team from Xavier College had beaten a Melbourne team 3 to 1. The winners of the premiership cup was again the South Melbourne Club.

The 1885 Victorian season was felt to be less successful than that of 1884, but the annual dinner, held at Clements Cafe, was well attended. Mr. Fookes proposed a toast "To lacrosse", to which Mr L.L. Mount, one of the fathers of the game responded. Trophies were presented, and the meeting closed with "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem.

On Thursday 25 June 1885 a meeting was called by W.J Paterson at Prince Alfred Hotel, Adelaide to form a new Adelaide Lacrosse Club and proceeded to practise in the park lands. J.S Wainwright attended from Noarlunga and formed the Noarlunga team soon afterwards.

The first match played in South Australia was played on Saturday 1 August between Adelaide and Noarlunga, played at Noarlunga Recreation Ground (one goal all). A return match was played on Saturday 22 August on the Victoria Park Racecourse grounds (Adelaide 1 d Noarlunga nil).

The photos below are arguably the oldest photo in existence of Australian lacrosse, they are the Adelaide Lacrosse Club team and the Noarlunga Lacrosse Club team, from 1886, played at Victoria Park in the east parklands.



Above is the Adelaide team and below is the Noarlunga team. Nobel prize winner in physics, Professor Bragg is third from the left in the back row of the above photo. Professor Bragg shared the prize with his son in 1915, both lectured at the University of Adelaide.



The 1886 season saw further growth. There now existed clubs at Bendigo and Sandhurst. A match had been arranged between the Sandhurst club and the Ballarat Lacrosse Club. On 18 September, 1886, "The Australasian" reported that "the game had taken firm root in Sydney, the first season having been closed with four clubs participating, and an association having been formed." As was now customary the 1886 season ended with an annual dinner. The University Club won the

premiership cup for 1886. It was reported that the country clubs of Bendigo, Sandhurst and Ballarat had enjoyed successful seasons. Attempts had been made to arrange an inter-colonial match, but no fixture had as yet been arranged.

The season of 1887 opened with the usual reports of the annual meeting of various clubs, but the issue of "The Australasian" of 9 July contained significant comment. "The game of Lacrosse," it stated, "appears to be gaining popularity in the colonies. It has been introduced with moderate success not only in Victoria, but also in New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland, and it will soon be possible to arrange for matches between inter-colonial teams each season. The first inter-colonial match yet played in Australia took place in Adelaide a few days ago. A team from the South Melbourne Club, who were runners-up for the premiership last year, and have this season been only once defeated in the association matches visited the sister colony at the invitation of the Adelaide lacrosse clubs. The team did not represent the full strength of the South Melbourne club. It was not expected that they would have things all their own way. They played their first game against the Adelaide players on the Adelaide Oval on Wednesday, 29 June. The Adelaide club is the original club of South Australia. It has been in existence about three years, and among its members are several first-class exponents of the game. The team which it sent to the field was a very strong one. The men played well together, and the visitors were unable to do more than hold their own against them. The teams scored two goals each, and the game was therefore drawn. The second match took place at Noarlunga, a small township near the coast, about 20 miles from Adelaide, where lacrosse is very popular. The visit of the Victorians was regarded as of great importance. Some bunting was displayed. About 400 people assembled to witness the game. The spectators showed their appreciation of every bit of good play, and were impartial in their applause. Noarlunga's team included several expert masters of the crosses, but it was not a match for the visitors, who were in excellent form, and scored a substantial victory by 6 goals to 1. After the game they were entertained at a dinner by the local club and spent an enjoyable evening. The third game was played against a combined team on the Adelaide Oval on Monday 1st, and on this occasion they sustained defeat. The combined team was the best the colony could produce. The men showed a thorough knowledge of the game, and played together in a manner which surprised their opponents, and taught them a lesson from which they will probably profit. An exciting contest resulted in a win for South Australia by 4 goals to 2. The fourth and last match took place on the same ground the following day, when the visitors crossed sticks with North Adelaide, which is the youngest of the South Australian clubs. Amongst its members are Professor Bragg, and Sydney Talbot Smith, both Cambridge University players. The game was for some time very even, but the visitors, warming to their work, began to score rapidly, and won the game by 7 goals to 2. The visit will be of material advantage, and will, it is hoped, lead to other meetings of a similar character.



The above photo of the South Melbourne lacrosse team visiting South Australia is arguably the second oldest photo of lacrosse in Australia, taken a year after the photos of the two South Australian teams, Adelaide and Noarlunga.

An effort was being made for an inter-colonial match between Victoria and New South Wales. There are difficulties in the way, but they ought to be overcome". Thus the seed was sown, which, in the fullness of time, yield the fruit of inter colonial matches.

At the meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association reported in "The Australasian" of 6 August, 1887, among other business was a report from the South Melbourne Club of their visit to Adelaide. This opened the way for the organisation of inter-colonial matches by the association rather than by individual clubs.

On 27 March 1887 Professor Bragg, a lecturer at Adelaide University and a member of the Adelaide Lacrosse Club, assisted with the formation of the North Adelaide Lacrosse Club. There was another club formed in Adelaide called the Knightsbridge Lacrosse Club, located in the eastern suburbs near Burnside, but they lasted perhaps only ten years (similar to the original Adelaide club).

The S.A. Lacrosse Association was formed in 1888 with four clubs (Adelaide, Noarlunga, North Adelaide and Knightsbridge) formed in the years 1885-1887 as the founding members, with two country clubs quickly forming in Port Augusta and Jamestown.

The Brisbane Courier reported on 27 September 1887 "The first intercolonial lacrosse match ever played in Australia took place on Saturday afternoon (25 September) at the Albert Sports Ground between teams representing Queensland and N.S.W. The national game of Canada is yet to make its way to popularity in this colony, but the Brisbane and Ipswich clubs, which were only formed a few months ago, have displayed an amount of enthusiasm which is not only creditable, but has contributed largely to the measure of success already attained". The writer goes on to say "The available space for carriages was all but completely occupied and there were probably not less 600 patrons in attendance, including Sir Arthur Palmer, his worship the mayor, and a large number of leading citizens. In the N.S.W. team 6 clubs from Sydney were represented and the Queensland team were 8 Brisbane and 4 Ipswich. Several in both teams were players with Canadian, English, Irish and colonial reputations of a high character, the visitors were by no means confident of gaining the victory, which eventually crowned their efforts. The N.S.W. players wore light blue caps and sashes, white shirts and knickers, and the Queenslanders red caps, sashes and stockings, white shirts and dark blue knickers". N.S.W. won the game by scoring the only goal of the match.

"As already indicated all of the players did well but there could be no doubt the honours in the field were divided between Robin of Ipswich and Broughton of Sydney. The former was a Cambridge University player and the latter played in a crack team of Manchester. The return match will be played at Ipswich this afternoon (27 September)".

Interest in inter-colonial matches was seen to be alive at the beginning of the 1888 season. "The Australasian" stated that there was a report that teams from South Australia and New South Wales would visit Victoria during the season. Though no specific report of such a match has been found, an inter-colonial match under the direction of the Victorian Lacrosse Association did take place in this season. At the annual meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association held on 20 March 1889 it was stated that "An inter-colonial team had visited the colony from Adelaide, but on account of the unpropitious weather during their stay, the matches played had not resulted in the manner anticipated..." The report then proceeded to other matters which showed an inter-colonial interest. "An effort has been made," The "Australasian" stated, "to establish uniform playing rules throughout the colonies, but the various associations had not taken the matter up, and it was therefore allowed to remain in abeyance for the present.... A letter from the Adelaide Association was read, cordially inviting the Victorians to send a team of players over during the season, and a sub-committee of the secretaries of the various clubs was formed to use their best endeavours to comply with the request". The balance sheet presented at this annual meeting revealed that a loss of £25 had been made on the inter colonial visit. Further consideration was given to the invitation from the South Australian Association at the Victorian lacrosse monthly meeting reported on 18 May 1889. It was unanimously agreed to accede to the request, and to suggest that the matches be played in the early part of August. The arrangements for setting up a uniform code between the colonies would be considered during the visit of the Victorian team to Adelaide.

On 4 April 1889 Professor Bragg again assisted with the formation of the Adelaide University Lacrosse Club, where he was a lecturer in mathematics.

At the Victorian monthly meeting of 10 August 1889 it was stated that the arrangements in connection with the visit of an inter-colonial team to Adelaide had been completed, and it was decided that the players should leave on Thursday 15th inst. and play a series of matches extending over a week. The matter of inter-colonial rules would be discussed during the visit of the team. Players willing to go to Adelaide who had not yet handed in their names to the secretary were urged to do so at once. On 24 August 1889 "The Australasian" reported that the North Adelaide team had defeated the Victorian team by 3 goals to 2. This was the third game played by the Victorians, and their second defeat. Thus an important step was made during this season, the official organisation of inter-colonial fixtures. In Victoria the game was still attracting new players. In the report of the annual meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association in "The Australasian" of 9 May 1890 it is noted that a club had been started at

Essendon. In the issue of "The Australasian" the formation of a lacrosse club in Caulfield was announced. The premiership lists name also the Tortoise Club, the Civil Service Club and the Melbourne University Club.

Some reorganisation of the Victorian administration had occurred during the 1891 season. "The Australasian" reported on 23 May 1891 that the first meeting of the new Lacrosse Association" was held on the Monday evening of that week at Young and Jackson's Hotel. Fixtures were arranged, and modification to the rules were made. The number of players in a team was to be reduced from 13 to 12. The position of point, or extra goal-keeper was to be abolished, thus making throwing for goal much easier. The ball was to be "faced-off" rather than thrown up. This would bring the game in Victoria into line with that in Canada. Matches for the premiership would in future be known as "pennant matches", and the successful club at the end of the season would be presented with a flag, the gift of the Hon. Secretary.

Inter-colonial matches were arranged for the 1892 season. This time a team from South Australia visited Victoria. There was always difficulty for the visiting side to field a truly representative side, and previous experience had shown that the home side usually won. On this occasion the trend was reversed. The report of the game (20 August 1892) stated that the visiting side won the inter-colonial match by first-class all round play, and the better condition of its men. The game was played at the Richmond Cricket Ground. The visitors also played a game against the Caulfield Lacrosse Club, which the visiting team won by 11 goals to 1.

No further developments of importance seem to have taken place until the season of 1896. The Melbourne Club had been the instrument for establishing the game in Victoria, and for many years its members were among the leading exponents; but in encouraging its members to establish other clubs, its membership had become much diminished. Probably demographic shifts also exerted an influence, and the decay of the city of Melbourne as a residential area with the subsequent development of more outlying "dormitory" suburbs made it hard for the administration of the club to attract the new players they needed. As most of the members of the Melbourne Lacrosse Club were also members of the Melbourne Cricket Club an approach was made to the committee of the Melbourne Cricket Club to take over the Melbourne Lacrosse Club. After consideration, the committee of the Cricket Club accepted the proposition, and the Melbourne Lacrosse Club became the Lacrosse Section of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

The annual report of the Melbourne Cricket Club states: "This new adjunct to the sports has been fairly prosperous for a first season, having won, under the captaincy of Mr. C. Murray, eleven matches, lost three and drawn one. The M.C.C. lacrosse team is now third on the list out of 13 clubs; two matches have still to be played." The receipts and expenditure account for that year shows a debit of £12.4.0 against the Lacrosse account. By the 1898 - 99 annual report the amount debited against the Lacrosse Section was £60.2.3. Under the control of the Melbourne Cricket Club, the lacrosse club showed itself to be worthy of its ancestry winning the Victorian Lacrosse Association premiership for 1901. Eight of the players in the M.C.C. team were selected for interstate matches. The section now fielded two teams. Thus the club established by the pioneers of the game was perpetuated. The benefits to the association soon became evident, when the committee of the Melbourne Cricket Club allowed the match between the tourists to play South Australia and the Rest to be played at the Warehousemen's Ground.

Interest in inter-colonial matches remained high. In 1896 a Victorian team, after playing warm-up game against other clubs, visited Adelaide. The home team won comfortably. Their win was not unexpected, for the pattern had been that the home team in these contests usually won; but the Victorians had not anticipated so convincing a defeat as 13 goals to nil. "Home", writing in "The Australasian", suggested that, while the tradition in South Australia was for team work, in Victoria an unhealthy leaning towards individualism was evident; and it was the strength of the South Australian team-work that brought about the heavy defeat of the Victorian individuals.

The individualistic attitude seems to have been serious. Players arrived to begin their club games more or less at their own convenience. At a general meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association reported in "The Leader" on 23 May, 1896, a motion was proposed by Mr. Strickland of the Flemington Club "That any team not ready to play within 15 minutes of the starting time will forfeit the match." "Left Home" continues with the comment: "It is unfortunate that such a provision should be necessary, for there is no reason why the matches should not start with more punctuality than they do now. Last Saturday one match did not start till 3.45pm., and though the unfortunate cause in this instance was serious illness in the absentee player's family, it must be admitted that to ask the opposing team's forbearance for so long is unreasonable. Why did not the absentee's side commence without him, as they could under the rules, fill up the vacancy at any time. Perhaps the team concerned will take this hint, and buy a few copies of the rules from the secretary of the Association."

Further progress was reported at the beginning of the 1897 season. The number of clubs playing had increased from 13 to 15. This really meant that there were three new teams, for Caulfield had found difficulty experienced difficulty in finding players, and had gone into recess for a season. A team formed at Port Melbourne had met with little co-operation from the local cricket club, and had decided to reorganise under the auspices of the Carlton Cricket Club, whose ground they would use. The teams appearing in the premiership list were: M.C.C. (2); Varsity (2); South Melbourne (2); Hawthorn, Essendon, Collingwood, Carlton C.C, Flemington, Auburn, Moonee Ponds, Brighton, Glenferrie. The issue of "The Australasian" of 26 June 1897 reported that interest in the second half of the season would centre on the inter colonial contests to commence the following Saturday. The match arrangements were: 3 July, South Australia v Victoria, 7 July, N.S.W. v South Australia, 10 July, N.S.W. v Victoria. In addition each of the visiting teams would play one of the leading Victorian Clubs on the other days of the same week.

The carnival proved successful. For the inter-colonial match between South Australia and Victoria the sum of £30 was taken at the gate, and crowd estimated at 2,000 occupied the Members' Reserve. The South Australians again demonstrated their superiority. "Home" commented that the "body-check" was not practised in South Australia, and gave the South Australian little opportunity for it. When South Australian players were confronted by an opponent, they either stopped dead, or, with great nimbleness, ran around him. Their team-work was again excellent. South Australia won by 6 goals to 1. The New South Wales team, new to inter-colonial competition were generally out-classed. South Australia won four matches, Victoria one.

The game was still spreading. In "The Australasian" of 1897 it was reported that enthusiasts in Western Australia had established two clubs, one at Fremantle and the other at Perth, which played each other on alternate Saturdays. In New South Wales the game was slow in gathering momentum. Replying to a communication from the South Australian Association inviting New South Wales to visit South Australia, Mr W. Morrison replied on behalf of the New South Wales players. He had handed the letter on to the secretary of the New South Wales Association, Mr S.P. Jago. The New South Wales Association had not at the time of writing, had a meeting. Mr Morrison had no official position, and, though he had tried to stimulate the Association to activity, nothing had so far been done. He was not optimistic about the likelihood of New South Wales players travelling to other colonies. The local competitions had been organised so that only the best players were in the first grade. By this concentration of good players, it was hoped to raise the standard so that New South Wales representatives could make a reasonable match of it against inter-colonial sides.

From the report in the "Australasian" (7 May 1898) it is evident that a decision had been made by the Victorian Lacrosse Association to send a team to New South Wales, if for nothing else, to give encouragement to the enthusiasts for the game in that colony.

In the meantime, an increasing number of players were becoming involved in the game in Victoria. The Essendon and the University clubs each proposed to field three teams.

Lacrosse in South Australia was flourishing, and in New South Wales interest was growing. In Victoria and South Australia much of the drive came from people of importance in society, business and the professions. As the preparations for the visit of the first Victorian team to visit New South Wales proceeded it was evident that similar men were attracted to the sport. The Governor of New South Wales had accepted the office of Patron of the Association, and the Premier of New South Wales was a Vice-president. Mr. Morrison, who had now accepted the office of Secretary, was an active and busy man. The use of the Sydney Cricket Association ground had been granted for the inter-colonial match.

In Western Australia, too, interest in Lacrosse was growing. "Left Attack" quoted from his correspondent in Western Australia in the issue of "The Australasian" of 4 June 1898, that clubs had been established at Menzies, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie and the Boulder. The Western Australian Association contained the clubs of Perth, Fremantle, Mercantile and Cottesloe. That association played under rules similar to those followed by Victoria and South Australia. The game was being developed, as it had been originally in Melbourne, by experienced players taking their enthusiasm with them to their new localities and inspiring their new friends and acquaintances with a love of the game. Names mentioned were those of Messrs Wicksteed (ex. Knightsbridge, S.A.) , Wilkie (from S.A.), Hyde (Ex Iroquois, S.A.), Burton, (ex Jamestown, S.A.).

Inter-colonial solidarity was further evident in that proposals to alter the rules of the game were submitted to a Colonial Conference. In the issue of the "The Australasian", 4 June 1898, "Left Attack" noted that a South Australian delegate gave notice that he would propose that the game be played in four quarters rather than two halves. His reason for submitting such an amendment was that such an arrangement would give both sides fairer conditions regarding wind and weather. The proposal was not viewed favourably by Victoria, but the decision would rest with the Inter-Colonial conference.

In the issue of "The Australasian" of 2 July, 1898, "Left Attack" that at the Victorian Lacrosse Association's last meeting, Mr D. White had tabled a motion "that the Inter-Colonial Conference be asked to take into consideration the advisability of introducing "free position" as a penalty in certain cases of breach of the rules of lacrosse. It has often been felt that when a player had been "fouled" by an opponent, it is not a fair award to have him face off with the aggressor, as it is only a matter of chance that he may maintain the advantage. On the other hand it is felt that a "free throw" is too great an advantage to give in such a game as lacrosse. The proposition now advocated by Mr White seems to meet the difficulty, and it is to be hoped that the matter will receive full consideration when the delegates meet. "Free Position" is briefly described thus: the player who has been fouled takes the ball in his crosse, which is held in front of him. All the players must remain where they were when the fouled occurred, but no one may be within 5 yards of the player who has received the "free position", and, at a signal from the referee, play proceeds. Thus the player who has been fouled has possession of the ball, but may be hustled in, or checked from getting rid of it, as would have been the case had no foul occurred." Whatever the merits of the proposition might have been, it is significant that the decision was to be made by the Inter-Colonial Council.

"Last year," he continues, "when New South Wales sent over their team under the captaincy of W. Morrison, the form displayed was anything but good. From reports now to hand, the game is making great strides. Last year's captain is now secretary of the New South Wales Association. He states that only three of the 1897 team will be good enough for a place this year. That being so, it would not do for our Association to send a weak team to Sydney in August.

Fostering the game in other states brought problems. Lacrosse was an entirely, not to say aggressively, amateur game, and "amateur" is to be interpreted in the sense accorded to it in the last decade of the 19th Century: that is to say that "amateur" meant not so much a determination to accept no financial reward for participation, as membership of a certain class of people. This meant that if players absented themselves for long, their professional or business interests suffered. The increasing demands of inter-colonial representation meant that some of the best players must put their professional or business prospects at risk, or restrict the number of fixtures for which they could play.

This trend became evident when preparations for the game between South Australia and Victoria were in hand. The match was to be played in Victoria, but after the South Australian Association had chosen their team, several of those selected stated that they were unable to make the trip. For a time it seemed that the fixture would be abandoned, the view being that to send a mediocre team to Victoria would do more harm than good. "We are paying dearly," The South Australian correspondent is quoted in "The Australasian of 16 July 1898", for fostering the game of lacrosse in New South Wales," adding that "the obligation for the South Australian team to visit Victoria had been forced upon the South Australian association by the decision of the Victorian association to foster New South Wales lacrosse in preference to returning the South Australian visit this season."

"The Australasian" commented: "Lacrosse has grown, and it is a pity now to hear a discordant note struck. With reference to the Victorians visiting Sydney instead of Adelaide, it will be remembered that a delegates' conference decided that, in the best interests of lacrosse, South Australia should visit Victoria this year and that they and the Victorians should then go on the Sydney and play there. The fate of the South Australians in having to make two successive trips is only that will befall Victoria next year. I feel sure that with Dan White & Co at the helm there will be little chance of the Victorians allowing the Adelaide trip to fall through next year..." Fortunately the problems were overcome.

Through the co-operation of Melbourne University, several of the university players, previously unavailable, were able to make the trip, and the visit of the South Australian team to Victoria was duly made. Each colonial association selected a team from such players as were available, the Victorian selectors suffering the adverse comment with which ambitious players usually reward selectors.



Victorian and South Australian Lacrosse Teams - 1898
Interstate Match played on Melbourne Cricket Ground 6th August - Victoria 9 def South Australia 5

The inter-colonial match was played before 5,000 spectators, many of whom had not seen lacrosse before. The Government Administrator introduced the game with a short speech in which he spoke of "Lacrosse as the sport of thoroughbreds". Rivalry was high. It was ten years since Victoria had defeated South Australia. The game concluded with Victoria winning by 9 goals to 5. The South Australian team also played excellent matches against the M.C.C. Lacrosse Section and against the

University. "Left Attack" concluded his report by commenting: "The majority of the South Australians returned to Adelaide on Wednesday. They all said they had a splendid time in Melbourne despite having had the work of three matches in four days." In the same report, "The Australasian" stated that the Inter-Colonial Conference had decided to introduce the "free position", giving the player offended against the ball with his crosse in front of him, two or three yards clear of his nearest opponent as a penalty in certain breaches of the rules such as tripping. They had also decided to have lacrosse matches in future divided into quarters, as in football, instead of halves as at present.

The report in "The Australasian" of 20 August 1898 commented on the visit of the Victorian team to New South Wales. The Victorian players expressed the view that New South Wales had improved individually, but were still not well trained in team work and strategy. The Victorians won the game easily, but they gave an excellent demonstration of the game. The trip was a real success, and the inter-colonial matches just concluded would have firmly established lacrosse in New South Wales.

There were still rough edges to the game. When inter-colonial rivalry became warm, play in which vigour exceeded skill began to creep in. "Left Attack" noted in "The Australasian" of 27 August 1898 that in the M.C.C. vs S.A. match there were many accidents from clumsy play. The game between the Victorian team and the South Australian team was played in a manner which could not fail to win admiration for the game, but the danger that rough play might make itself conspicuous was real. In the Sydney contest "shinty" business was much in evidence. The only safe expedient, wrote "Left Attack" for stopping a dodging opponent is the "body check", but many Sydney men never try it, but slash away with the crosse. The intention is to hit the crosse of an opponent, but experienced players know that it is impossible to strike the crosse of a skilful player, and it is certain that the head or the body or the arm will suffer instead. Several Victorians had returned with marks earned in this way. Reckless stickwork marred the inter-colonial game. It was evident that the New South Wales Association had much to do in insisting that the laws of the game against rough play should be respected. It was gratifying to hear that the leading players in Sydney were going to put the evil practice down."

Encouraging report of the progress of the game in Western Australia were contained in the Lacrosse report of 3 September 1898. The premiership table showed Perth leading by only a point from Mercantile and Fremantle. A metropolitan team had visited the goldfields and played matches against Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie and a combined goldfields team. The progress of lacrosse in Western Australia was evidently healthy.

The equipment of all games tends to change with developments in play or techniques in manufacture, and it is from an inter-colonial report of a match played in the Western Australian goldfields that we read of a variation in the structure of the crosse. "All the goldfields forward men," quoted "Left Attack" from a letter from the Western Australian captain, "played with what are known as 'bridged' crosses - - that is, with crosses that have a piece of gut or string tied across the pocket of the crosse, at the angle about two inches above where the netting and the wood of the crosse come to a point. The visitors asked the referee about it, and were told that it was an English practice, so they said nothing on the field, but allowed their own forwards to use the same aid to catching -- for an aid to catching and dodging it undoubtedly is! It curls the string across towards the wood, and makes a most effective trap in which the ball will stay, but out of which it can be thrown with rare speed and without jamming." The secretary of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, to whom the point was submitted, regarded the practice as a breach of the spirit of the rules, as well as the letter of the law. Rule 1, "the Crosse", he declared forbids the fastening of the leading string so as to form a pocket lower down the stock than the end of the length of the strings. "Lower down the crosse" means further from the handle towards the bend, and the length of the strings are the long strings running from the bend of the angle and around which the cross strings are netted. The English authorities allow the tying of a piece of string or gut across, but the Irish do not, and when an English team visited Ireland in 1896 they were forced to remove it. The goldfields players are the first to use it, but no doubt, if a ruling were asked for from the South Australian or Victorian Associations it would be voted as a breach of the laws.

The situation was one which would come before the notice of the Intercolonial Conference before long. The controversy also showed that the time might be approaching when an international body must come into existence to unify and interpret the laws of lacrosse.

From a later report (22 October 1898) it would seem that the practice began with the players at Coolgardie. Kalgoorlie players did not use "bridges". Whatever the exact position, it is evident that a development of the crosse was evolving, and that a decision concerning the legality of such variations must soon be made by the Inter-colonial Conference.

The opening of the 1899 season raised the question of amateur status. "It cannot be too plainly pointed out", wrote "Left Attack", that lacrosse as now played in Victoria is a purely amateur game, and that all its followers intend that it shall remain so. At present, even in the inter-colonial trips and matches, the players have to pay their own expenses, but it is hoped that, as the game gains popularity, it will be possible, without damage to the status of the sport, to recoup colonial men at least their travelling expenses.

Two inter colonial games have been set down for the 1899 season, Victoria v New South Wales on the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and the other between Victoria and South Australia on the Adelaide Oval. The association fixed on an attractive uniform for Victorian players in inter-colonial matches. It was to consist of a white jersey with royal blue collar, cuffs and facings, white knickers, blue hose and cap. It was felt that the Lacrosse colours for inter-colonial games should conform with those used by Victorian cricketers.

The first reports of the 1899 season indicated that the interest in the game was still growing in all states. Some players, like B. Murray, of the M.C.C. had been transferred interstate to Fremantle. Russell, from the Varsity club had gone to Edinburgh to complete his medical studies. On the other hand, players like Drew and Bonnin had come to Melbourne from South Australia to do their fourth and fifth years. As well as inter-colonial movements there were transfers of members from club to club. Thus, some clubs might be stronger than they had previously been and some weaker, but on the whole the following of the game was stronger than ever.

The Victorian association at the beginning of the 1899 season had adopted the division of playing time into four quarters instead of two halves, as had previously been the custom. This had meant a playing time of 90 minutes, giving forty minutes each way, with a ten minute break. If this playing time was divided into four, even with a short interval between quarters, the playing time would be significantly reduced. The question was raised, and a President's ruling as to whether the 90 minutes in the rules meant 90 minutes playing time. The Acting-President, Mr Wm. Grove (?) regretted the ambiguity of the rules, and gave as his opinion that the ninety minutes meant ninety minutes playing time. As it was generally felt that quarters of 20 minutes or less, would make the game too scrappy, the Chairman's ruling was supported by the meeting. It was proposed that the first two quarters should be 25 minutes long, and the second two should 20 minutes, the figures being exclusive of intervals. The feeling was expressed that four quarters of 25 minutes would not be too long; but as this would involve a complete alteration of the rule, the Committee decided that it might not come within their jurisdiction, and legislated for 90 minutes of play.

The report in "The Australasian" of 15 April 1899 by "Left Attack" reflected optimism for the future of the game, and significant development in the colonies. The Ballarat Lacrosse Club had disbanded, but it seemed a propitious time to revive enthusiasm for the game. Several Melbourne players had moved to Ballarat, the best known of whom was Mr. G. Batchelor. An exhibition between picked city teams, perhaps the team coming from or going to Adelaide might be arranged. In the Metropolitan competition, four teams would compete in the senior section and eleven in the junior. There was a noticeable gap in the standard of play between the senior and the junior sections. The President of the Association at the last annual meeting had referred to this: "Play more open Lacrosse," he advised. "Don't crowd so much, together. Practice assiduously passing and catching. Let there be less scrimmaging and "hockeying" in your matches. At present there is a big gap between senior and junior Lacrosse." That gap the juniors will do much to lessen if they act on that advice.

News from Western Australia was encouraging. There would be two teams at Fremantle, the second team having the services of F.C. Wingrove, the ex-Melbourne player, the ex-Melbourne University player, W. Gardner, and ex-South Australian player, B. Murray, late of the M.C.C.

In South Australia the outlook was also bright. There were to be 6 teams in the senior section, although the Knightsbridge Club, which had been playing since 1877, had disbanded, but a fine team had been got together in Sturt. The Y.M.C.A. Lacrosse team would play in their senior competition, and three new teams, Woodville, Semaphore and East Torrens would play in the junior competition. A club was to be established at Kapunda. The inter-colonial match between South Australia and Victoria was already arousing great interest.

In New South Wales the annual meeting of the Association reported a satisfactory financial position, a credit balance of £6. Clubs competing for the Lassetter Cup in New South Wales would be University A, University B, Waverley, Newtown, Wentworth, North Sydney, and Glebe, seven in all.

That lacrosse had a considerable following in Victoria is evident from the report of 22 April 1899 that the Melbourne Sports Depot had published an "A.B.C. Football and Lacrosse Guide". It contained in a neatly printed publication, the programs for the senior and junior divisions lacrosse teams and the laws of the game complete.

The regular club games in Victoria proceeded with enthusiasm. An interesting sideline reported in "The Australasian" of 6 May 1899 were contests arranged in connection with the University sports day to demonstrate lacrosse skills. A Long-throwing contest was won by W. Waters, with 113 yards and an 18 yard handicap, or 131 yards in all. The next throw was by T. Drew, 125 yards from scratch. The goal-throwing contest was won by A.B. House, with C. Williams second. An interesting fact was that the winners were both back men, House being a goal-keeper.

Games in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia were reported regularly in "The Australasian", and the reports indicate steady progress. A Paragraph in "Left Attack's" report of 18 July 1899 contained a paragraph indicating that other countries were beginning to take notice of lacrosse in Australia, and that perhaps the day when Australia might take part in an international contest was not far distant. The secretary of the New South Wales Association had received a letter from the Vancouver Intermediate Lacrosse Club, which contained interesting news of lacrosse in Canada. The President of the Intermediate Club was an ardent admirer and worker in the best interests of lacrosse. He desired information concerning the conduct of affairs in connection with the game under the Southern Cross. He asked for copies of the lacrosse laws and other information so that, if possible, some kind of unanimity in all the laws of the game may be created wherever lacrosse is played throughout the British Dominions.

The season in Canada opened on Queen's Birthday (i.e. 24 May, the birthday of Queen Victoria, also known as Empire Day), and continued throughout the hot season, some matches being played in a temperature of 90° F. The game, he said was enjoying a boom all over Canada.

On the Saturday preceding the report of 22 July 1899 the teams for the inter-colonial matches had been chosen. All the best talent for Victoria was available for the match between New South Wales and Victoria. A very nearly full list was available for the match against South Australia in Adelaide. Great interest was evident in the colonies involved. The Sydney correspondent said "a record number of spectators witnessed the practice match between the colonial team and the rest of New South Wales, who were treated to a fine exhibition.

The visit to New South Wales passed off successfully. The Victorian team beat the visitors by 10 to 3. In a match between the junior clubs and New South Wales, the Victorians won by 8 goals to 6. The visit of the Victorian team to South Australia was more salutary than successful. The South Australians had all their best players available. They beat the Victorians by 10 goals to 3. The Victorians admitted that they were outclassed in general lacrosse. The Adelaide ground was fast and dry, in contrast to the heavy and wet grounds of Victoria. As defeated sides in all sports tend to remark, it was said that the game was more even than the scores indicated. The match between the

Victorians and the premier team of South Australia, the Iroquois, produced a similar defeat, 10-3. The Iroquois team played with great dash and sureness, giving one of the most aggressive displays of the season.

A letter had been received from Canada indicating that "the opening match of the season between Westminster and Vancouver was the finest display of lacrosse ever seen. It was described by an old hand as being "the acme of Lacrosse, shooting like a shot from a gun, passing, checking and rushes grand".

No inter-colonial visit to Western Australia had yet been arranged. From Melbourne to Perth in those days involved a long sea-voyage. Matches took place between clubs in the vicinity of Perth and those on the goldfields. The goldfields association consisted of six clubs. At the final match of the tour of the goldfields players, Goldfields Association v Perth Association, Perth won by 6-2. The day was pleasant, and there were several hundred spectators, including the Governor and Lady Smith. The visit of the goldfields players did an immense amount of good to the game of lacrosse in Western Australia, arousing much interest among people previously unacquainted with the game.

To conclude the season in Victoria, the final game was played between the University and the M.C.C. teams. A large crowd of spectators assembled. The game was fast, with first-class lacrosse being shown by both sides: but the University team showed their superiority. This resulted in the University winning the premiership, they having gained 20 goals to the M.C.C.'s 19. In the junior divisions, the University won the A and the B sections, and Essendon won the C section.

On 3 September, 1899, the introduction of Lacrosse to South Africa was reported. The information came from the ex-South Australian player, P. Egerton Warburton. "Lacrosse in this country is practically only in its infancy," wrote Egerton, "The game was started here two years ago by B.S. Cheetham and old Stockport, an international player, to whose efforts the existence of the Durban club today is entirely due. It is, up to the present, the only lacrosse club in South Africa. The difficulties which the game has to contend with are in many respects similar to those previously experienced in Australia, such as the laxity of the young players in turning up to practice, and thus condemning the game before it has had a fair trial. The ground also is somewhat against it, our present one being very sadly, partly owing to the Durban winter being the dry season. Thus the game is seriously hampered by numerous scrums when the ball is not lost sight of in a sandy patch".

But having witnessed the steady growth of the game in South Australia I do not despair that lacrosse will eventually find favour with the South Africans as a winter sport. At present football reigns supreme, and in consequence monopolises the best grounds and most of the public's support. Previous to my coming to South Africa, I had not played the game at all, but through having on many occasions witnessed matches in South Australia and seeing Phil Newland, T. Drew, and other such exponents of the game I had some idea of how it should be played. The enclosed photo was taken after an interesting match between the Homeborns and the Colonials of the club, resulting in a win for the latter by 3 goals to 0. B.I. Cheetham captained the Homeborn, W. Munro the Colonials. Included in the Colonials were two Australians, viz. J.W.P. Lee (Victoria) and myself, the rest, with the exception of the captain, being South Africans." Whether 1899 was a propitious time for establishing a new pastime in South Africa is an interesting question. The Boer War still being fought bitterly.

In Victoria the season of 1900 opened promisingly, though there was no great increase in the number of teams playing for the premiership. Eight clubs played in the A section - M.C.C., Hawthorn-Kew, University, Collegians, Essendon, St. Kilda, Auburn, and Collingwood. The B section consisted of Collingwood (2), Essendon (2), Williamstown, Brighton, M.C.C. (2), St. Kilda, University (2), Hawthorn-Kew (2). There had been changes in personnel because of the usual influences, and the Kew and Hawthorn clubs had combined. Mr. W.C. Dakin and P. Holden had moved to Camperdown, where they were trying to establish a team. In this endeavour they had received the co-operation of the pioneer family in the district, the Manifolds, and had requested that at some convenient time two teams might be sent there for an exhibition game.

In the wider sphere, it seemed likely that the Sydney followers of lacrosse might have to forfeit their inter-colonial match, on account of an outbreak of bubonic plague. Nevertheless, the New South Wales Association had been active, and had been in touch with Canada suggesting that the Canadian Association send a team to Australia. Canada being the home of lacrosse, the Canadians were taking up the idea warmly, and a visit from a Canadian team seemed assured. (*Australasian*, 19 May 1900).

The report of 2 June 1900 indicated that the proposition of the visit of a Canadian team to Australia had been further pursued. It was now proposed to arrange a visit from a Canadian team for the winter of 1901. The proposed trip would be for the duration of 3 months. The team would play matches in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. The Canadian team would represent the whole Dominion of Canada from coast to coast, including men from Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Winnipeg, Cornwall, Vancouver, Westminster and Victoria. There was gratifying evidence of enthusiasm for the project in Canada. The question of finance would need to be examined.

The project was also reported in "The Leader" of 2 June 1900. The suggestions at that time was that the Canadians should play five matches in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, though how those matches were to be arranged was not stipulated. "Left Home" of "The Leader" suggested that there should be an international match in Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne against a representative inter-colonial team with other matches against the leading clubs. Although, as we have seen, the game was well established in Western Australia, that Association did not enter into considerations. The railway and the aeroplane had not yet conquered the hundreds of miles of desert separating Western Australia from "The other sides". General optimism was expressed that the financial obligations associated with such a venture would be met without difficulty.

In the meantime, club lacrosse continued with enthusiasm. Seventeen teams were entered for the Victorian pennant competitions: University, M.C.C., Essendon, St. Kilda, Hawthorn-Kew, Collegians, Auburn and Collingwood being in the A section. In the B Section were Hawthorn-Kew, St. Kilda, Brighton, Essendon, M.C.C., Williamstown, Auburn, Melburnians, University and Collingwood.

Inter-colonial games were now taken seriously. Lively discussion took place regarding the selection of the team to represent Victoria against South Australian and New South Wales. The selection committee met at the Amateur Sports Club on the second Saturday in July, 1900 to make the final choice. The match against South Australia was to take place on the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 21 July. The team was chosen in sufficient time before the fixture for them to practice together on the Melbourne Cricket Ground. In the issue of "The Leader" for 14 July the South Australian team was published. With four exceptions it was the same team as had the previous season defeated the Victorians by 10 goals to 3. It was evident that it was as strong a team as the South Australian Association could field. "Left Home" commented that the Victorian selectors had done their work well. The team to go to New South Wales was also announced, but the keener rivalry was aroused by the match against South Australia. The Inter-colonial match against South Australia had now become almost a tradition, the one in 1900 being the eighth. Of those previously played, South Australia had won 5 and Victoria 2. This match was likely to be the last of the inter-colonial matches, for federation was about to be established. The boundaries of the Federal Electorates were published in "The Leader" in the issue of 14 July, 1900.

The South Australian team was warmly greeted. The Right Worshipful, the Acting-Mayor, Alderman Bayles received them in the Town Hall on 19 July at 12.30pm. At 2.30pm they were the guest of the President of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, Mr P. Shappere, at his residence, Canterbury Road, Albert Park. The game was reported in "The Australasian" on 28 July 1900. The weather was fine, but the wet winter had left the Melbourne Cricket Ground very muddy, and good stick-work was difficult. Considerable interest was generated by the game, it having been played before a crowd of 5,000 persons, including H.E. the Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Madden. South Australia won the game by eight goals to three. The play was excellent, the South Australians demonstrating their superiority in their "wonderful passing and combined play".

"Left Home", in "The Leader", commented that the victory of the South Australians was well deserved. "When they shoot for goal, "he wrote", "the ball travels from their crosses as from the mouth of a

cannon, and the fact that their tally was not much higher reflects great credit on the Victorian goal-keeper, A. Rudd." The visit was concluded in great spirit. On the evening of the match the teams were entertained at dinner at the Vienna Club, and on Monday evening the visitors were present at the invitation of the management to witness the performance of "Peg Woofington" at Her Majesty's Theatre. On the following Wednesday afternoon the Victorian team to play New South Wales left for Sydney by the express. The skill of the New South Wales players was still inferior to that of the other colonies, and the Victorians won by 10 goals to 3. According to "Left Home", of "The Leader", there was not great difference in individual skills, but the New South Wales players still had much to learn about playing as a team.

The venture into international matches was still prominent in the minds of lacrosse administrators and players. A meeting of the representatives of the Victorian, South Australian and New South Wales Associations was held to discuss the proposition. It was felt that Australian players could acquit themselves well against the Canadians. "Lacrosse had," "Left Attack" wrote, "struggled on in all colonies since it had been first introduced by enthusiastic Canadians". The upshot of the meeting was that a decision was made to invite a team from Canada, and that the associations should be asked to provide a guarantee of £600, the half of the estimated expenses of the tour. It was proposed that the whole of the gate-money should go to the Canadians, as it was felt that the impetus given to the game would be so great that the Australian associations would benefit more than adequately through the increased interest in the game. The resolutions of the conference had still to be ratified by the state associations, but it seemed probable that the propositions of the conference would be accepted. "Left Attack" expressed the view that Australians would see a Canadian team next winter.

Reported in "The Australasian" of 18 August 1900 was a visit to Camperdown by two teams of Melbourne players. The purpose was to arouse interest in the game by giving an exhibition. Their hosts did all they could to make the visit a happy one for the Melbourne players. In the morning, as the guests of Messrs Hinfhaugh, Evans, Holden, Dakin, and other members of the local district they were taken in a drag to the park over-looking the lakes. The match was played in the afternoon on the recreation ground at the foot of Mt. Leura, a most picturesque spot, and a ground which the expenditure of very few pounds would make superior for lacrosse purposes to any ground in Melbourne. The game was fast and open, and resulted in a draw, with the score at eight goals each. In the evening, after attending a presentation concert to Sergeant Satchwell, the visitors were entertained at a supper and smoke night, which continued till after midnight, when everyone was glad there was no train to catch. The visit demonstrated the enthusiasm of metropolitan lacrosse players to develop interest in the game.

That this zeal for propagating the game had significantly beneficial results was born out by "Left Home's comments at the end of the season. "In closing this column for the season," he wrote, "I would urge all those who take and interest in the welfare of the game in Victoria to apply the lessons of the present season to the future benefit of the game, and to remember that the gain of 300% in playing members during the last six years has been the result of vigorous action"

The pennant season closed with the University Club winning the A pennant, and the Hawthorn-Kew Club winning the B section.

"The Leader", of 25 August 1900, reporting on a meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association stated that correspondence included a letter from Mr. Hamilton Byrne, Hon. Secretary of the New South Wales Association, enclosing copies of the resolutions agreed to at the proceedings of the conference. A discussion followed, and the resolutions of the Conference were adopted unanimously. The Hon Secretary was instructed to make it clear that each association should be responsible for one third of the £600 guarantee towards the expenses of the visit of the Canadian team.

Summing up the season for 1900, "Left Attack" of "The Australasian" wrote: "The season just concluded has seen a great improvement in Lacrosse in three colonies, Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, where the game has been firmly established. The prospect of a Canadian visit next year augurs well for the success of the game in 1901, and there seems no doubt that Lacrosse has come to stay, and to be a popular sport. Till next season, crosses and mits are all stowed away, strings have been loosened, and lacrossists are seen no more about the streets, but if, during the summer months, men may be seen tightening out the string and having a throw occasionally, be it known that these are enthusiasts, making ready for the Canadians, and hoping thereby to gain a place in the Federated Australia team against the Dominion of Canada in 1901".

The population of Australia in the year of federation was 3,773,601 and the population of Victoria was 1,201,070.

It would indeed have been fitting if federation could have been brought in with an inter-dominion game; but the optimism regarding a Canadian visit in 1901 seems to have been a little premature. Big events such as this need time to organise. The New South Wales players, had not yet developed the skill of their opponents in South Australia and Victoria. Although the first moves for a Canadian visit came from New South Wales, there seemed to be a little cooling off of enthusiasm when it came to be a matter of raising money. Victoria, as we have seen, acted promptly, and their lead was soon followed by South Australia. The organising secretary in New South Wales, after having "taken up the matter warmly, has apparently allowed the project to hang fire, as "Left Attack" wrote in "The Australasian" of 4 May 1901. "It is to be hoped that the idea will not be lost sight of, " he continued, "for nothing would do more for the furtherance of the sport."

In Victoria there was lively enthusiasm at the beginning of the season. At the annual general meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, held on 25 April, nearly 200 members, mainly players, attended. They were disappointed to learn of the delay in the Canadian arrangements, but heartened that "those who have taken up the matter in Canada are hopeful that the season of 1902 will not pass before the visit became an accomplished fact." According to "Left Home", the three associations concerned had guaranteed the preliminary sum of £600, each state to contribute £200. The means of raising the £600 needed to complete the cost of the venture had still to be decided. Raising moneys of this magnitude may well have been something of a problem, for the Hon. Treasurer of the Victorian Association was congratulated on his wise handling of the Association finances, he having converted a £2 debit balance to credit balance of £14.

Nineteen teams were entered for the pennant competitions.

On 1 June 1901 "Left Attack" indicated that an era had passed. "In order to give the selectors of the association an opportunity of picking the best team to represent Victoria against South Australia in the inter-state match against South Australia," he wrote, "a practice match will be played on the Melbourne Cricket Ground between two picked teams." The inter-colonial matches were finished; the beginning of federation had brought in the new era of inter-state matches.

The same report brought encouraging news that lacrosse was being actively played in England as well as in Canada and Australia. "In 1877," he wrote, "an annual match was instituted between the North and the South of England. The match this year was played at the Crystal Palace, and for the 10th time in succession the Northerners won, 7 goals to 4. Sporting Life says: "amongst those present was His Grace, the Duke of Argyll, who is President of the South of England Lacrosse Association. After the match, His Grace congratulated the teams on the game, which, he said, was the best he had seen since leaving Canada, and also compared the English with the Indian method of playing, with advantage from the spectator's point of view to the former.

The newcomer to the pennant competition of Victoria, Elsternwick, signalled its entry into the game by defeating the M.C.C. second team in the B section by 7 goals to nil.

The inter-state matches in 1901 began with the match between Victoria and New South Wales. It was expected that the New South Wales team, having improved considerably, and their line having been stiffened with four ex-South Australian players, would be hard to beat. The match was played in the presence of the Lieut. Governor, Sir John Madden, and a "fair" attendance. However, after a slow start, the Victorians played better, and won their first inter-state game by 16 goals to 3. The play of the Victorian forwards was where their superiority was best revealed. The team sent by the Victorian Association to South Australia found tougher opponents. for the first quarter of the game. The South Australian supremacy then became evident, and the game ended in a victory to South Australia by 9 goals to 4. In spite of their loss, it was felt that the Victorian team had done well. The side selected for South Australia seemed full of talent. The task for the Victorian selectors was becoming more difficult, for there were more players vying for the various positions. Quoting from "Canada" of "The South Australian register", "Left Attack" continued: "The largest crowd that has watched Lacrosse to this date was present, the gate amounting to £102. Lord and Lady Tennyson, who were accompanied by Lord Richard Nevill, occupied the Governors box, which was decorated with the showy Cricket Association's colours. The Mayor and Mayoress of Adelaide were also

present, and a large, fashionable assemblage filled the Members' Stand, the attendance there being the best that has been seen since the last international cricket matches.....Members of the winning side played up to their reputation. The Victorian backs, with the exception of Rudd and Bambridge were weak. The three homes did their fair share of the work. The best of them was Gay, who, however is inclined to be selfish. Several times he could have passed to Furneaux or Dunn with much better results than attended his efforts to bump men of weight like Cussen, H. Monfries and Gooden." Evidently the Victorian team co-operation was still incompetent compared with that of South Australia. "Canada" continues: "Delves in goal offered one of the best defences we have seen from Victorian goal keepers. At times the South Australian battery pumped them in as from a pom-pom. The public frequently had opportunity to applaud Delves for his pluck. The game generally was clean and fair, the referee, F.K. Wright calling the ball up only twice. One free position was awarded." "Left Attack" concluded his report with a table showing the results of matches between South Australia and Victoria since 1888. This revealed that South Australia had won seven times to Victoria's two. Their superiority was further revealed by indicating that South Australia had thrown 69 goals against Victoria's 30.

The inter-state match against New South Wales was fast approaching, and "Left Home" commented in "The Leader" that there were now so many players fit to represent the state that the selectors had no light task in naming the best twelve. He felt that, in view of the strong team selected by New South Wales that the Victorian team should be fast. The New South Wales had chosen to play the Victorian second side on 22 July rather than to meet St. Kilda. "Left Home" considered that the second side would be little inferior to the first.

The New South Wales players arrived on 19 July, and would leave for South Australia on the following Monday afternoon. They were entertained at the Vienna Cafe, Collins Street, by the Victorian Lacrosse Association. The interstate game showed that there was still a considerable gap between the quality of play of the Victorians and that of the team from New South Wales, the visitors being defeated by 16 goals to 3. During the half-time interval, Sir John Madden was entertained by the President of the Melbourne Cricket Club, Mr. R. Murchison who proposed the toast, the toast to the health of the Lieutenant Governor. Sir John, in a graceful reply, regretted that there was not as large a crowd as there should have been to witness so fine a game. "Lacrosse," he stated, "Was the conception of savage, but it showed to what excellent ends the invention of savages could be put in the hands of sportsmen. It ensured that all the activity, physical power, skill and resolution that we all looked for in games we like to encourage, and all the principles of generosity which lay at the base of everything connected with sportsmen. Everything, too, that tended to brutality and unfairness seemed to be excluded. He congratulated the visitors on the excellent fight they had made to half-time. He wished them all the success they could command (cheers)".

The series of matches played between New South Wales and the Victorian second team resulted in a handsome win for Victoria.

But good things came of the encounters. Mr W. Morrison, of New South Wales, who had been the instigator of the proposal to invite a team from Canada to play in Australia, was able to outline the present of the negotiations. "His Association had been in communication with Mr. Allingham in Canada. At present there were serious difficulties in the way of a visit from the Canadians the next year. The competition in the inter provincial championships was so keen that no club would let any of its players leave Canada during the season, so that, at the earliest, the team could not be available before August or September, when the Australian season was nearly over, and, as cricket grounds would be undergoing top-dressing, those months would be too late. The Canadian press is loud in its praises for the generosity of the Australian associations, but there again is a difficulty. There are two rival bodies in Canada who are fighting for the upper hand, the "Deadly Combat Sports", who look on the matter from a professional point of view, and the "Reform Party", who are genuine amateurs. The supremacy of either of these parties would, Mr. Morrison said, soon be settled. There was a cheer later on when Mr. Chanter, Chairman of Committees of the House of Representatives, said, "I have supported this movement, but if there is to be any question of professionalism, I withdraw my support at once." It will be seen that the trip is far from being arranged yet..."

It was gratifying to supporters of lacrosse to know that the Canadian project had not fallen into oblivion, but was still very much alive.

The New South Wales team left on Wednesday morning for Ballarat, where they would board the Adelaide express in the evening. This was the first New South Wales lacrosse team to visit Adelaide,

where they would play three games. The South Australians won the interstate match by 9 goals to 2. The Club competitions for the premiership of Victoria were concluded successfully. Among other favourable indications of the increasing popularity of the game in Victoria were the comments made from time to time of the increasing number of spectators at inter-club games to cheer on the representatives of their respective clubs. The team representing the Melbourne Cricket Club was declared the premier team in the A section. Auburn in the B section, Essendon B in division 1 of C section, and St. Kilda of division 2. A further development of the Canadian project was reported in "Left Attack's" final comments for the 1901 season. "Mr W.G. Auld, of Adelaide," he wrote, well known to those in the game here as one of the most popular managers of a South Australian team who has ever visited Melbourne, has consented, according to a communication from the Adelaide Association, to a request made by our Association that he should take over the secretaryship of the negotiations between Australia and Canada for a visit to Australia of a Canadian team. The previous secretary, Mr. W. Morrison, of New South Wales, recently resigned after a year or two of fruitless effort. It will be good news that Mr. Auld has agreed to take up the work. In his hands the project is very likely to succeed. He will be cordially backed up by the associations of Victorian and South Australia.

\\

By 1902 there was still no immediate prospect of a team from Canada visiting Australia, but Mr. Geo. Auld, the newly appointed secretary of the Canadian project, had kept up correspondence and renewed offers. That the visit of a team from Canada to Australia was not a far-fetched vision is clear from a report in "The Leader" that a team from Toronto province was then on a visit to London. The Canadian players had played on the Leeds Cricket Ground against a team from Scotland organised by the Duke of Argyll. King Edward, and the Prince and Princess of Wales were present. The Canadians won the game.

During the previous season incidents of unnecessarily rough play had occurred, and the Committee of the Victorian Association was anxious to preserve the spirit of sportsmanship and skill that was so necessary an element in lacrosse. A sub-committee consisting of L. Hambledon, D. White and B.J. Dunn was appointed to examine the problems and make recommendations towards their solution. One of the difficulties was the appointing of suitable referees, the number of games far exceeding the number of candidates. The sub-committee recommended that on occasions when neither the association nor the respective captains could find a referee the game should go on without one, but that either captain might report to the association any case needing inquiry with a view to having the player dealt with. A sub-committee should be appointed annually to hear complaints from referees or captains with full power to reprimand the player or to suspend him till the end of the season. An alternative penalty was suggested, that of fining a player up to £2 or disqualifying the offender. One of the regulations suggested by the sub-committee was "that a player must not interfere with another who is not in possession or immediately about to gain possession, of the ball." This would do away with shepherding, and would also prevent players unduly blocking a clever man. So that players might be conversant with these interpretations a pamphlet entitled "Hints of Players" was being issued which would define exactly what was a legal crosse.

In all games the referee may find himself in an invidious position. He must give rapid decisions in rapidly changing circumstances. An incident of this type arose during a match between the M.C.C. and the University. The occurrence was that J. Latham, one of the University's attacks, slipped and fell. In doing so he hurt himself badly and was unable to resume play. The referee immediately called Walsh (M.C.C.) who had been playing against Latham to cease playing. This was in accordance with rule 10 of Lacrosse. There was no suggestion of untoward behaviour on the part of either Latham or Walsh; the rule merely allowed the teams to have the same number of players on the ground. Walsh was at that time in fact minding Anderson, but he complied with the referee's direction, whereupon Anderson continued playing and scored the equalling goal. The game ended in a draw at 5 goals each. In fact, the referee had made an error, but rules are frequently drawn up with qualifications and provisos, and, in the heat of the moment, such complications may be overlooked or mis-interpreted. By the rules the referee is directed to give his decision (which in all cases is final) and shall not be allowed to express an "opinion only". So, by direction the referee must act promptly and directly. But the relevant rule read: "In the event of an accident of injury during a match, the referee shall at once stop play, and at the resumption of the game the ball shall be 'faced-off' at the place where the ball was at the time of the accident. The referee shall have the right to direct the removal of the injured player, and, in the event of injury, shall equalise the number of players on each side in such a manner

as he may think fit." The contention of the M.C.C. players that, as the referee should have stopped play before removing Walsh, the goal scored by Anderson should be disallowed. It would seem that the M.C.C. view prevailed, for "The Leader" records that M.C.C. beat University by 5 goals to 4.

Further reference was made to the Canadian project in "The Australasian" on 17 June 1902. "About 2 years ago," wrote "Left Attack", a proposal was made that a team of lacrosse players from Canada (the home of the sport) should be invited to visit Australia, and negotiations were entered into by Mr W. Morrison, of Sydney, on behalf of the Australian associations with Mr. Allingham of British Columbia. Nothing came of the proposal however; but last year Geo. Auld, of South Australia, undertook the organising work, and when Major Wardill went to England to manage the Australian cricket team, he was commissioned to reopen the question with representatives of the Toronto team, which has lately been touring England. Major Wardill has written to Dan White, of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, enclosing a letter he had just received from Mr. J. Melrose Macdonald, manager of the Toronto Club tour, in which that gentleman states that as British Columbia is far from the great centre of Lacrosse in Canada, which is at Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, it has not been found practicable to go with the scheme as originally proposed. He adds, however, "I would think there would be very little difficulty in getting a first class Canadian team to visit your shores, and, among other, would not be afraid to undertake the responsibility." Toronto Club, which was incorporated in 1860, is the oldest and most influential club in Canada. There seems therefore to be some prospect of the tour being arranged. The interstate games were maintaining their importance in the development of lacrosse. The team selected to play against New South Wales was announced on 12 June 1902, and on 19 June 1902 the team to represent South Australia against Victoria had been announced. The game against South Australia took place on the Melbourne Cricket Ground. In spite of Victorian optimism, South Australia won by 8 goals to 5. Unfortunately, the day turned out to be wet. The surface of the Melbourne Cricket Ground became slippery, preventing both sides from displaying their best skill. The bleak conditions discouraged spectators and the "gate" from the match was negligible. As the Victorian Association had spent freely to advertise the match there was a considerable deficit to make up instead of the profit which the association had anticipated would redress their balance. At half-time, the Mayor of Melbourne, who was present, complimented the players on the game.

Chief Justice, Sir John Madden, an enthusiastic follower of the game, was present. In replying to the toast of his health at half time, Sir John said that lacrosse combined the quickness of resource, the reading hand and eye of the cricket field, and the vigour and the fleetness of foot and stamina of the football field, and required the cool temper and steady nerve which are the essentials of every sport. Other distinguished spectators were Mr. R. Murchison, President, of the M.C.C., Sir Samuel Gillot, Mayor of Melbourne, Cr Burton, Geo. Auld, the manager of the South Australian team, and Mr. Garland, ex-President of the Toronto Lacrosse Club. The dinner given to the South Australian team was well attended. The South Australian players left on the Monday to take up their engagements in New South Wales. The Victorian team followed them on the Wednesday. The South Australians defeated the New South Wales by 26 goals to 0. The match in Sydney, South Australia vs Victoria was closer than the one in Melbourne, the South Australians winning by 7 goals to 5, largely because of the superior skill of the South Australian goal throwers. Victoria defeated New South Wales by 12 goals to nil. The base on which any sport depends consists of the local clubs which keep the game alive among the people.

An interesting feature of the 1902 Victoria vs New South Wales match was the presence of the man who had founded the game in Victoria, Mr. L.L. Mount. He watched the proceedings with interest. In speaking during the interval to the toast of the Lord Mayor, he outlined some of the difficulties the pioneers of the game had overcome. He stated that he had every reason to be satisfied with the progress made since those early days. The quality of the game had far exceeded his most sanguine expectations. The Chief Justice, Sir John Madden, and the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sir Samuel Gillot were present, and expressed their appreciation in witnessing so fine an exhibition of the game.

Little as the Victorians might like to admit it, the statistics proved that South Australia was the state where the best Lacrosse was played. The matches between Victoria and South Australia were anticipated keenly, the Victorians believing with unquenchable optimism that this would be the season when the South Australian supremacy would end. Everything was in favour of Victoria: although the game was being played in Adelaide the selectors had chosen what they believed to be an excellent

representative side. However, Victoria had to postpone the celebration of their long awaited victory, largely through excellent goal-throwing, which, the critics said, excelled anything previously seen in Australia. In spite of the improvement in the Victorian game noticed by South Australian critics, the home side won by 13 goals to 3. At the dinner for the team on the evening after the match the President of the South Australian Association spoke warmly about the game, stating that it was the best he had seen. He believed that the standard of play indicated that an Australian team would perform creditably against any team that could be picked from players in England. He then referred to the matter of successfully inviting a Canadian team to visit Australia. We would never be able to see a completely representative Canadian team in Australia, because the season in the Commonwealth clashed with that in the Dominion. This meant that professionals could not get away. Another difficulty was the Commonwealth immigration policy. Many of the best players in Canada were Red Indians, and their entry into Australia would be barred by the "White Australia Policy". It was evident that Mr Auld was working steadily and patiently to make a workable arrangement for the visit of a Canadian team. In his response, he regretted that the New South Wales team that had visited Victoria had not extended its tour to include South Australia. But journeys such as these involved considerable expense, this could cause embarrassment to amateur players, lacrosse being very strictly an amateur game. The delegates to a conference between South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria recognised this, and sought to overcome the problem by setting apart 75% of the receipts of interstate games for the purpose of defraying the expenses of team journeying between the states. It was also agreed to form an Australasian Union to have entire control over the laws of lacrosse. It is not stated whether Western Australia was to be included in the union. Lacrosse in Western Australia was rarely reported in Melbourne newspapers at that time. In spite of the difficulties of travelling between Western Australia and the eastern states, attempts were being made to bring that state into the orbit of the Commonwealth of Australia. "The Australasian" of 18 July 1903 reported the names of the team selected by the South Australian Association to visit Western Australia. The Western Australian Association had guaranteed £100 towards the expenses. The South Australian team was to leave on the 15th August, and the tour would last three weeks.

The first report in "the Australasian" for the 1904 season contained many hints of things to come. The lessons provided by the South Australian teams were being heeded. Speaking of the Essendon club, the premiers of the 1903 season, "Left Attack" wrote "....Their play last year was very fine individually.. If they can only get into a systematic way of quick and short passing, they should be invincible...Canadian visitors tell us that, though we have great athletes, still our standard of lacrosse is far below standard in the matter of passing. The man who relieves his goal by a tremendous throw, or dashed down the field with a lightning sprint, should be careful not to overdo it, and would do far more good for his side by accurate passing and playing for position. At the season's commencement, it is well to lay this precept down again, so that players may begin well. There are several Canadian gentlemen in Melbourne who would, I am sure, be only too glad to give some hints to the players in this respect. As well known writer on the question of quick, sharp exchanges, says: 'The essence of attack play is quick dashes in the proper direction, but not an inch further than is necessary to get a player into a favourable position for a pass.' Thus, a quick runner is a of great use, provided he be one does not hold the ball too long. Lacrosse players should bear in mind that the game is not always to the swift, and that combination will beat pace in nearly every instance. The team which plays together lasts the longest, and the fewer openings left for the opposing side the better.' If these excellent precepts could be put into practice, the day might not be far away when a Victorian team would beat a South Australian team."

A new development indicated in this first report for the 1904 season was that the premier team for the season would visit South Australia to play the premier teams from the other states for the Club Championship of Australia.

"The Leader" reporting on 16 April 1904 stated that the Victorian Lacrosse Association had acceded to an application from the Malvern Club for admission to The association. Thus the club that would have so much beneficial influence on the game in later years achieved its full status. The uniform selected by the Malvern club, in the opinion of the Committee of the Victorian association, was

deemed to clash with that of the St. Kilda club, and it was decided to ask the Malvern committee to reconsider it, with a view to making it more distinctive. A later report (28 May 1904) stated that Mr. Tait, the Chief Commissioner of Railways, who has a prominent player of the game in Canada, had accorded his patronage to the Malvern Lacrosse Club, and had expressed his desire to further the interests of the game in which he still shows a keen interest. The Victorian Lacrosse Association now realised that some organisation of suitable referees should be formed. Up to this time the provision of referees for lacrosse games was left to individual clubs. This meant that in many cases there was no referee at all. All season the association wasted arrange referees for at least all the A grade matches, and, where necessary, for B grade matches. This responsibility was delegated to the Permit Committee. When a group of referees was formed, the men would meet to discuss a suitable uniform, and a uniform reading of the rules. Unduly rough checking was an aspect of the game which needed attention. It was contrary to the spirit in which the game of lacrosse should be played. "Lacrosse is a game for thoroughbreds," Sir James Madden had said during a recent speech, and there is no need for the "bullocking" tactics of football to be brought into the sport.

In the reports on actual games a name well known in later years in cricket and cricket administration first made its appearance in lacrosse. "Ransford, the promising cricketing colt, showed up fairly, both at centre and among the forwards."

The game of lacrosse was still spreading within the Commonwealth. In "The Australasian", 21 May 1904 "Left Attack" wrote; "Lacrosse is going ahead in Queensland as well as in other states. I have just received a letter from G.H. Fetherston, formerly of the Hawthorn Lacrosse Club, who is now resident at Rockhampton. He writes; 'I would be glad if you could spare a few lines about lacrosse in the north, which may be of interest to southern enthusiasts. Twelve months ago we formed the Rockhampton Lacrosse Club and I was elected captain. We have now about 20 members, but are the only club north of the tropic, and we must therefore boom the game before the public. To do this we are endeavouring to get a team from the Brisbane Association to play us this season, and thus put the game before the public. In addition we hope to get St. Paul's Recreation Club, and Catholic Young Men's Club to form lacrosse teams, also to divide the Rockhampton Lacrosse Club into two teams, and thus form an association of four teams later on. Local sports are being given every encouragement to take up the game this season, 2 medals and one crosse being open for competition. We have a central ground, and are selling recruits cheap second-hand crosses. Our membership fee is only 2/6d and our colours are maroon and white. We have now an energetic committee and an excellent secretary, and by dint of hard work hope gradually to establish the game on a firm footing. We hear the game is making great strides in Brisbane also, and trust that it will continue. We hope to be remembered by the Brisbane Association when the choosing of the first Queensland team is taking place..."

The game was therefore now gaining a truly Australian character, it being played at this time from Fremantle to Rockhampton. Pennant games in Victoria were being played with increasing enthusiasm and skill, but, by 9 July 1904 the fixtures for the interstate matches were drawing close. The programme announced was:

9 July	Victoria vs South Australia at the M.C.G.
18 July	New South Wales vs South Australia on the Sydney C.G.
16 July	Victoria vs South Australia on the Sydney C.G.

The Adelaide team arrived by the Express on the Thursday, and were welcomed by the President of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, Mr. Phillip Shappere. They attended a luncheon at the Melbourne Cricket Club on the Friday, and indulged in a little practice for the game to be played the following day. In "Left Attack's" view it was the finest game of lacrosse ever seen in Australia. In spite of the cold, raw day, there was an attendance of 2,000. There were many of the pioneers of the game among the spectators, such as G. Beech, who was the first man to learn the game from L.L. Mount in 1870, Mr. R. Garland, formerly President of the Toronto Club in Canada, and Mr. Stow, President of the Western Association. The relative newcomer to the game, V. Ransford, made an appearance in the Victorian team because the chosen players, Gay and Dunn could not play. The evenness of the

play and the closeness of the scores kept the spectators ecstatic until the final bell rang, at which time Victoria led by 7 goals to 6. The South Australians' run of superiority had, for the time at least, ended.

The South Australian team then caught the Express to Sydney, where the interstate carnival was to take place. Both the South Australian and the Victorian teams were a little depleted. Three of the South Australians who had represented their state in Victorian had to return to Adelaide, and only four of the team which defeated South Australia were able to make the journey to Sydney. The results of the matches were that South Australia defeated New South Wales by 14 goals to 3, and Victoria by 8 goals to 4 in an excellent exhibition of passing and team-work. The Victorians were further handicapped because one of their members, obviously unfamiliar with Sydney took the Bondi tram instead of the Coogee, and eventually arrived too late to play. The New South Wales Association entertained the visitors royally, a gymnastic entertainment by the Y.M.C.A., a launch picnic on Middle Harbour and a dinner at the Cafe Francais being among the functions. The ground on which the game was played was rather rough, with the consequence that two sticks were smashed. There is no doubt that the Interstate games did much to arouse interest in lacrosse as a game, and to engender the happy amateur spirit that was characteristic of it.

"Left Attack" of "The Australasian" included in his weekly report on 16 August, 1904, with an account of the progress of lacrosse in South Africa. "Lacrosse is going ahead in South Africa," he wrote. "A most interesting letter from W.F. O'Halloran Wright, Hon. Secretary of the Natal Lacrosse Association, was received this week, telling of the progress made. 'The game was started, he says, 'in 1898, but the Boer War eventuated, and nothing was done till the close of 1902, when the writer, who introduced lacrosse into Western Australia in 1896, rallied up old players and revived the old Durban Club, who played with a membership of 60 in 1903, The same year saw an association, with the headquarters in Maritzburg, the capital, also a club, but it was not till this year that matters were placed on a proper basis. Now the game is ruled from Durban, and there are three clubs playing under the Association - Durban, Iroquis and Durban Wanderers. The Iroquois, the writer dubbed after the famous Adelaide club. The last named, Wanderers, received their name from the fact that its members are all wandering "Australians". Maritzburg completes the four clubs, but being at a distance of 70 miles between city and port, meetings are only occasional. The Durban local inter-club matches are interesting, and all clubs are about equal, the Iroquois being, if anything, the strongest, and include mostly old players, chiefly Canadians. Durban includes some seven Australians, and the Wanderers, with the exception of one or two, are all from the Antipodes. Amongst the Australians playing here are:- Cruickshank, Cowell, Craigen, Bonner, Wright (South Australia), Richards, Lynch, Paul, Felton (2), Fallow, Darby, Rick Kilby (Victoria), Johnson (N.Z.) Callan (Q), Fraser (Broken Hill), Sumons (N.S.W.). There is an intertwine match played yearly between Maritzburg and Durban, and donors have presented a floating inter-town Challenge Cup, value £30. The first Cup competition is tabled for July 23rd, when the port men play at the city. Although the city men are few in numbers, they are mostly Canadians, and are a hard nut to crack. We put a scratch team against them on 4 June, and only rubbed home by a goal. I hope to form two clubs, and can safely say that the game here and the climate lacks that bush grip which makes hard athletic sports a pleasure, and there is a thing called Natal Fever which overshadows the proverbial Australian tiredness."

On 13 August, 1904, the first report of a game involving Queensland appeared. It was played in Brisbane, and was won by New South Wales by 8 goals to 2. Both teams played well, but New South Wales, with more inter-state experience, and therefore showing more scientific lacrosse, deserved their victory. With the spread of the game into the various states it was evident that an organisation covering all states should be formed. "Left Attack" noted in his report of 27 August 1904 that the sub-committee of the Victorian Lacrosse association (Messrs D. White, W.B. House, B.J. Dunne, W.W.J. Foster and Rev. T.J. Redhead) had drawn up a number of recommendations respecting the formation of an Australian union, to control lacrosse all over Australia. The recommendations had been approved by the Victorian association. The proposal was that the Union should consist of Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australian, with the hope that Western Australia and Queensland would also join. The Union would make rules applicable to all states, and would act by retaining 50% of the gate at interstate matches, create a fund to finance teams which have to travel to take part in interstate games. The Union would be governed by a Council consisting of two delegates from each state. Also in 1904 the first match was played to determine the Champion Club of Australia. As reported on 10

September 1904, the Essendon Club, premiers in Victoria, played the premier club of South Australia, Port Adelaide, on the Adelaide Oval, on Thursday 1 September 1904. Essendon showed excellent form, and defeated Port Adelaide by 26 goals to 2. On the Saturday, the Essendon team played a match against a South Australian team, naturally with less success, eventually losing by 9 goals to 3. The last match of the season was an exhibition match played at Mentone. It was reported in "The Australasian" of 17 September 1904. "Left Attack" wrote: "There has been a good deal of interest in lacrosse this winter and the public has taken a greater interest in the sport than in previous seasons." The real source of strength in any organised game lies in the quality and the number of those who actually play it. Both "Left Home" of "The Leader", and "Left Attack" of "The Australasian" spoke enthusiastically of the improvement in the skills and techniques of the game as exhibited in club matches. The Essendon club won the premiership in 1904, and won the title of the premier club of Australia by defeating the premier team of South Australia by 26 goals to 2. The strength of the Essendon club was evident when its teams also won the premierships of the B and C sections.

Women's lacrosse in Australia can trace its history as far back as 1904, when Miss Gwynneth Morris, a physical education teacher at Merton Hall, Melbourne Church of England Girls Grammar School, introduced the sport as part of the school's commitment to team sports.

The 1905 season opened optimistically. "Left Attack" stated that negotiations had been continued with the Canadian authorities to organise a tour of Australia by Canadian players. Nothing definite had yet been arranged, but it seemed certain that before long Australian enthusiasts would have the opportunity of watching a team of players from Canada demonstrating the finesse with which the game is played by players from the country where it originated. A Canadian visitor who had watched games in Australia felt that in science and skill lacrosse could hold its own with other games. Australian players had excellent athleticism, pace, dash, and skill, but the Canadian players were superior in team-work. He felt that if a visit by a Canadian team could be arranged the game would go forward dramatically. There was one serious obstacle. Lacrosse in Australia was strictly an amateur game. In Canada the amateur game was languishing in favour of the professional code. "Left Home" of "The Leader", felt that a business-like statement of terms that would be acceptable to Canadians was the only way of bringing reality to the negotiations. "Left Attack" stated that Mr. Garland, who had just returned from England, had been in touch with the Canadian administration. He was a former President of the Toronto Club, but was a little distressed at the apparent decadence of the sport under professionalism. But the domestic scene was happy enough. There was a healthy increase in the number of teams. Twenty two teams would play in three sections. Two new clubs, South Yarra and Coburg, had entered teams. The interstate games were to be played against South Australia in Adelaide on 29 July and against New South Wales on 12 August. The pennant season moved along successfully, with considerable emulation among the clubs to end the supremacy of the Essendon club. By 22 July the interstate match between Victorian and South Australia was imminent. Active rivalry now existed between the two states: South Australia was determined to re-assert its supremacy, and Victoria equally firm in its resolve to show that their victory of the previous season was no passing accident of form. The South Australian selectors chose a very strong side. The Victorian selectors had to overcome the problems that arise when amateur organisations conduct interstate events. Inevitably some players who might be selected are unable or unwilling to make the trip. Eventually a satisfactory side was chosen which was to play against South Australia on the 29th and against Western Australia on the 31st. This interesting development might be a constructive influence in bringing Western Australia into the bounds of interstate competitions. Travel was still a problem, for a journey from Western Australia to Victoria meant a sea voyage lasting about a week. Possibly the appearance of the Western Australian team in Adelaide was the result of the attempt to set up an Australian Lacrosse Union. There seems to have been some difference of opinion between the states. The Victorian Lacrosse Association was anxious that the authority of the state associations should not be weakened. The South Australian Association, although the Australian Lacrosse Union had not been set up, had invited the Western Australian Association to join the new body. The result of the match between Victoria and South Australia, as was expected by all but the most fanatical Victorian supporters, was won easily by South Australia by 11 goals to 3. On the Monday the Victorian team played the Western Australians. This was a historic occasion, as it was the first time that a team from Victoria had played a team from Western Australia. The Victorians won by 11 goals to 6. There was some reluctance among New South Wales players to visit Victoria. The Victorian association

received at short notice the intimation that no team from New South Wales would visit Victorian that year. This was unfortunate, for it had been tentatively arranged that a Victorian team would accompany the New South Wales players as far as Albury on their return journey. An exhibition game would be played therewith a view to starting the game at the border town. During the visit of the Victorian team to Adelaide a meeting of the delegates from the state associations was held with a view to establishing the Australian Lacrosse Union. The delegates from Victoria were Messrs Shappere and Forster; from Western Australia, Messrs Harvey and Hughes; from South Australia, Messrs Auld and Blockley. New South Wales had elected a delegate, but the New South Wales association was not represented. There is no mention of a Queensland delegate. The Union was set up to act in the interests of all lacrosse throughout Australia, to draw up uniform playing rules for all associations belonging to the Union and of international matches under the auspices of the Union. The most important decision was the setting aside of 50% of the takings from all interstate matches, out of which the travelling expenses of visiting teams either in whole or in part would be met. The Annual Meeting of the Union would be held in the state where the inter-state matches for that year would be played. Mr. Blockley was appointed Treasurer, Mr. T.C. Walker, Auditor and Mr. W.G. Auld, Secretary. It was resolved that the Union should obtain information with regard to inducing a Canadian team to visit Australia. The governance and control, other than finance, of all interstate matches between representatives and associations under the union. The new union almost immediately ran into problems. The "face-off" is an important technique in lacrosse, but one which led to differences of opinion. "Left Side" of "The Leader" detailed the problem in his report of 19 August 1905. "It is hoped that future attempts of the Australian Lacrosse Union to improve the laws of lacrosse will be more successful than have been its endeavours to particularly define the "face-off", he wrote. "Several attempts have been made in the past to frame a definition of this interesting method of setting the ball in play, but those attempts have been mostly made by inexperienced persons, and players who knew anything about the part of the game have successfully opposed any limitation of the ingenuity a "centre" might bring to bear in his efforts to gain possession of the ball. Now the Union has defined the "face-off" by setting forth that when the ball is placed between the crosses of the facers, and the sign to play is given, "the crosses are to be drawn clear" so what was once a feature of the game, calling forth judgement, quickness of thought and action, has been reduced to a mere mechanical device, favouring the "facer" with the longer crosse. When the Union was in process of formation doubt was expressed as to the wisdom in conceding these large powers regarding the making and maintenance of the laws of the game, but it was scarcely anticipated the realisation would come so early. In framing the definition, too, the Union has broken one of its own rules, providing for the submission to the Association concerned all business to be dealt with at the meetings of the Union." The concept of the premier club in Australia was further developed by arranging the visit of a team from the Sturt club in South Australia, to play the premier club in Victoria. This match was played between the Sturt club and the St.Kilda club on the Fitzroy Cricket Ground. The game was won by Sturt by 6 goals to 4. As an exhibition game the Sturt club also played a Victorian 12. After a close game the Sturt club won the match. A new development dating from 1905 was the inter-university lacrosse match between the Adelaide University and the Melbourne University. The first game was closely contested and ended in a draw. The second match was won by Melbourne by 4 goals to 1. The trophy given by Professor Petersen for the best player in the Melbourne side was awarded to A.Y. Mankivell. The pennant season drew to a successful conclusion on 25 September.

Further news about the progress of lacrosse in South Africa was provided by "Left Attack" of "The Australasian", in his report on the 29th July 1905. He quoted from a letter received from the secretary of the Natal Lacrosse Association. It was evident that the game was prospering in South Africa. "Herewith I have pleasure in forwarding a copy of the fixtures in connection with the Natal Association for 1905," he wrote "We are experiencing a most successful season, having four Durban clubs competing for the O'Halloran Wright Challenge Cup in connection with the Durban Lacrosse Union, whilst Maritzburg annually competes for the "MacAlister Inter-town Trophy", a 30 guinea cup. So far the port has 4 wins to the city's 2. A mixed Durban team played Maritzburg in Durban on June 3, when over 3,000 spectators were present, showing that the game is well established, it being only three years since I pioneered the game in South Africa. Old Durban players have been successful in starting the game in Johannesburg, Transvaal, and I have already fixed up for a visit from Johannesburg, dates being fixed for July 29, 2 matches vs Maritzburg at Pietermaritzburg, Transvaal

vs Durban Union at Durban, Aug 2; Transvaal vs Natal at Durban, Aug 5, the latter being the first inner colonial fixture for South Africa. Transvaal's team will be a hot one, including several crack Canadians, also, I believe, C.L. Murray and Handfield from Victoria. It is very pleasing to know that the game has been pioneered by Australians here. The Wanderer's Club is composed entirely of Australians. I am greatly gratified to read of the progress of the game in the West, where the late Fred Parsons and myself, both North Adelaide Club players, introduced the game in 1896. ---Yours etc

F. O'Halloran Wright, Hon. Sec."

On 26 May 1906 "Left Home" of "The :Leader" reported that a team from the Northern Tasmanian Association would visit Victoria to play a number of matches against Victorian club teams. By this visit they hoped to learn how the game should be played. Matches had been arranged against the Hawksburn club, the M.C.C., and the University team. This is the first report of the spread of the game into Tasmania. From the context one could infer that it had only recently been introduced, and that the Australian Lacrosse Union in the report of 2 June, which stated that it was only a few years since the game was introduced across the strait by Victorian enthusiasts who were temporarily resident there. The visitors were to arrive by the S.S. Loongana and to be welcomed by the Victorian Lacrosse Association at the Amateur Sports Club. The games were reported in the issue of the 9th June. The first round of the pennant games had revealed that the difficulty of obtaining suitable referees continued. To try to solve the problem the Victorian Lacrosse Association decided, as reported in "The Leader" of 7 July 1906 that the clubs having the byes should supply the referees for the other matches. It was at least a constructive move, and, as "Left Attack" stated, even a small measure of success would be an improvement on what had sometimes been seen in the past. They also decided to postpone the A section premiership matches for 14 July so that the team selected to play in the interstate matches would have the opportunity of practising together. A team from the M.C.C. had been invited to play against the Northern Tasmanian Association.

The teams selected by the Victorian and the South Australian selectors were both considered strong and a lively game was anticipated. The Victorians hoped to repeat their success of 1903, the last time they had met South Australia in Victoria. Their optimistic hopes were not realised, for South Australia won by 10 goals to 5. As usual, the South Australian team-work proved the more effective. The Victorian players wandered too far from their positions, while the South Australian being more disciplined and effective, played well to their positions. It was suggested that if the Victorians had appointed a non-playing captain who could control movements, they would have become less disorganised. However, wisdom after the event did not prevent the skilful South Australians from adding another win to their total. A Victorian team visited Brisbane and played three matches against a Queensland team. The results of the matches were no foregone conclusion as the Victorian team was not at full strength and the Queensland team contained the names of several notable players. The visit showed that the game had gained strength in Queensland. The game on the Saturday resulted in a win for Victoria by 16 goals to 12. From the high scoring it was evident that both sides were strong in the forward division, the difference lying in the greater effectiveness of the Victorian defence. As the Victorian team were passing through New South Wales, they were met by officials from the New South Wales Lacrosse Association with a request that they would play a game against a representative New South Wales team on their return from Queensland. The Victorians were reluctant, for they would have just made a forty hour journey by train, but, to encourage the game in New South Wales, they agreed to play, stipulating that the game should not be regarded as an official inter-state match. The Victorian team completed its commitments in Queensland. There was an even greater discrepancy in the scores of the second game, the Victorians winning by 15 goals to 6. The win in this game as all the more unexpected, for, as "Left Home" stated, "the round of entertainment provided by the Northern Association was in itself quite sufficient to throw the most ardent team out of form". The visit of the Victorian revealed a keen interest in the northern state. The team broke its return journey in Sydney to carry out its commitment to the New South Wales Lacrosse Association. In spite of the long train journey, Victoria defeated by 16 goals to 5. In individual skills there was little to choose between the two teams, but the Victorians, having benefited from playing together in Queensland, and also, no doubt from the many lessons they had learned from the South Australian

teams, showed much better co-operation and team-work. Again the Victorians were lavishly entertained by the men from New South Wales. The team itself found their colleagues most congenial company, and they were rewarded by having a most enjoyable time together. The M.C.C. team defeated the Northern Tasmanian Association by 13 goals to 7. The game indicated a growing interest in lacrosse in Tasmania, and it seemed likely that the old friendly rivalries between Northern Tasmania and Melbourne might be carried into lacrosse, and perhaps another dimension added to interstate competitions. There was still lively interest in organising a visit from a Canadian team. Australian players were a little uncertain as to what to expect from the Canadians. Lacrosse in Australia was very much an amateur game, which in those days meant playing like gentlemen. Occasionally the committee of the Victorian Lacrosse Association was called upon to deal with rough play. Cases of misbehaviour under the Victorian Lacrosse Association's control were much less serious than those in Canada. For instance, in the report of the 6 October 1906 the V.L.A. Committee had to deal with an appeal made by F. Delves against the accusation of rough play of which he had been found guilty, and fined the sum of 7/6d for using "ungentlemanly language" in the Essendon vs Hawksburn match. The association supported the decision of the Committee, but reduced the fine to 2/6d. In Canada the game had become increasingly professional. A paragraph in "Left Home's" report on lacrosse in "The Leader" of the 25th August stated; "From an account.... of a match between the Montreal and the Shamrock clubs in Toronto, professional lacrosse in Canada would appear to be anything but a ladies' game. The Shamrocks had been champions, or very nearly so, for several years, but in the game in question they met a team much superior in tactics, and, smarting under their reverse, indulged in the roughest of rough play, deliberately striking their opponents when beaten for the ball. The comments on the play of the winning team show that no member of it throughout the game ever strayed from his position. Will Victorian players please make a note of this latter fact?" By "Left Home's" report (8 October 1906) on affairs of the Australian Lacrosse Union it would seem that the establishment of the Australian governing body was not as secure as had been hoped. Victorians from the beginning had been critical of the state associations having given up so much power to the Australian Union. Support for the Union seemed to be dwindling. The last meeting had lapsed for want of a quorum. Among the absentees were the secretary and the treasurer, and there was no evidence that all delegates had been informed of the meeting. There were no minutes. The New South Wales Association threatened to withdraw from the Union unless its rights to assistance in sending a team to Victoria were recognised and met at an early date. There seemed every likelihood of an early break up. No evidence is available from the existing reports, but New South Wales (and other states) might have been justified in wondering whether the 50% of the proceeds from previous interstate games had indeed been paid to the Australian Union by the various association. The next week, "Left Home" took up the topic again. His view, and no doubt that of a significant number of Melbourne lacrosse players, was that it would be sufficient if the Australian Lacrosse Union's authority had been limited to pioneering visiting interstate teams. Apparently The Australian Union's interpretation of the "face-off" had received little approval in Victoria. The interpretation had been made through the influence of the Western Australian and the South Australian associations. Whatever the situation, there must have been, as in Denmark, something rotten in the state of lacrosse. The secretary and the treasurer had relinquished their responsibilities on the grounds of business commitments. It seemed that the governing body had come into being a little prematurely, and that, for the time being, at least, the Union should be disbanded. Probably interstate jealousies, added to inefficient conduct of business, and unsatisfactory appointment of delegates had caused the difficulties. It is possible that "Left Home" may have been a little parochial in his views. Towards the end of the season (22 October 1906) he suggested that too much emphasis was given to interstate games.

Possibly the question of amateurism exerted an influence. As the "Australasian" commented in one of its reports: - "The game is an amateur one. There is no question of payments to players, not only because no money is available, but because the controlling powers have set their faces dead against professionalism. So much is this so that there is a feeling that the association should get into touch more closely with the Amateur Athletic Association, with a view to having the amateur status of the Lacrosse player brought completely under the amateur rule. At present a professional runner may play as an amateur at lacrosse. The Victorian Amateur Athletic Association's definition of an amateur is world-wide and refuses to recognise a professional in one sport as an amateur in another. The lacrosse people are seriously considering the advisability of making the V.A.A. rules effective in their

sport. The result might be that in individual cases there might be hardships, but it cannot be denied that to make the amateur rule effective it should be universal. The V.L.A. would be striking a heavy blow in favour of amateur sport were they to take this action, and it is to be hoped they will succeed. The matter is gradually taking shape, and all amateurs will wish the V.L.A. success". It will be remembered that the question of travelling expenses was one of the contentious areas of the amateur situation. The dawn of the season of 1907 came up with unexpected thunder. "The Australasian" (4 May 1907) spoke of it thus:- "The lacrosse season of 1907, which, so far as Victorians are concerned, opens today, bids fair to be the most momentous that Australia has yet witnessed. It is just over thirty years since the Canadian game was introduced into Victoria by L.L. Mount, and among his first pupils were Geo. Beech (who was one of the foremost in supporting the game) and Amos C.H. Norcott (ex sec. of the Melbourne Football Club). Up till now the game has grown slowly but surely, and it is wonderful that progress has been made considering the fact that Australians have never seen a Canadian team play. For years it has been the aim of lacrosse enthusiasts to try to arrange for the visit of a Canadian team, and at last the desired end is in view. Geo. Auld (S.A.) and the late Dan White (Vic) were moving in the matter; but it was left for Z. Jones (S.A.) and W.W.J. Forster (Vic) to bring the matter to a head. Negotiations have been going on for some time, and now, at the beginning of the 1907 season it is announced that, backed by the lacrosse associations of Victoria and South Australia, The South Australian Cricket Association and the Melbourne Cricket Club, together with private enthusiasts, it has been possible to guarantee £1,500 towards the expenses of the Canadian team. The correspondence has been with Mr. J.C. Miller (President of the Canadian Association), and from the tone of his letters Australian sportsmen will be glad to welcome him to the Commonwealth. The latest letters acknowledge the acceptance of the guarantee offered by the Australian Association, and the team will leave Vancouver on June 21 in the S.S. Aorangi, arriving in Brisbane about 14 July. The team, which will be composed almost entirely of university men, and graduates, will play in Honolulu en route. The project is being taken up in Canada with great keenness, and Miller says he could have picked three or four teams from those who have offered to make the trip. The players are all amateurs and are contributing £40 a man towards the expenses. The tour is thus assured, and we can look forward to an increase of interest and skill of our players. Already increased activity is noticeable. The various clubs are prospering, and there is an air of expectancy which augurs well for the game and the success of the tour. P. Shappere (Pres.) and W.W.J. Forster (Hon. Sec.) are actively engaged in re-organising matters here, and in South Australia Rodney Cockburn is at the head of affairs. The arrangements have been completed by cable and letter".

"Left Home", of "The Leader", gave the additional information that "...a programme of matches has been arranged as follows: - Canada vs Queensland at Brisbane, 20 July; Canada vs Australia Melbourne, 27 July; Canada vs Australia, Adelaide, 3 August; Canada vs Australia, Melbourne, 10 August; Canada vs Victoria, Melbourne, 17 August; Canada vs Australia, Adelaide, 24 August. Other matches, the dates of which have not yet been fixed are Canada vs. South Australia, Adelaide: Canada vs Victorian combinations at Ballarat and Bendigo, and subsequent to 24 August, a series of matches in Western Australia. To bring all this about it was necessary to guarantee the visitors a sum of £1500 towards their expenses, and this had been done by the following bodies and to the extent shown: - Melbourne Cricket Club, £250 Victoria Lacrosse Association, £300; South Australian Cricket Association, £250; Western Australian Lacrosse Association £300; and Queensland Lacrosse Association, £100. So far, no matches have been arranged for New South Wales, as the governing body there could not arrange a match on a Saturday on account of the rugby team of New Zealanders having secured the grounds. If arrangements can be made, a weekday match may be arranged in Sydney as the Canadians journey south from Brisbane. The agreement with the guaranteeing bodies provides for the pooling of all gate receipts for matches arranged, and after the expenses have been deducted, the balance will be applied towards the objects of the guarantee. If there be a shortage the guarantors will contribute the deficiency in proportion to the amount of their guarantee, and if there be any surplus, the profit will be divided up in the same way. It was decided that the Melbourne Cricket Club and the South Australian Cricket Association should act as joint managers. As a result of the visit of the Canadian team, no inter-state matches will be played this year."

The process of implementing previous decisions concerning amateurism was raised at the first meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association. There was lively discussion, and the meeting decided

that details should be drawn up for discussion at a subsequent meeting. Mr. J. G. Latham, Barrister at Law, had drawn up a definition based largely on that of the Victorian Rowing Association. On 18 May 1907 "The Australasian" reported that the terms offered by the Australian association had been accepted, but minor difficulties concerning finance arose. It is easier to agree to provide money than it is at a given moment to supply it. None of the lacrosse associations worked on a surplus. It had been agreed that the associations of Australia should cable £800 to Canada as a first instalment of the £1500 agreed upon. Victoria, with the assistance of the Melbourne Cricket Club, sent £275 to Adelaide, Western Australia sent £150, and Queensland sent £50, so that Adelaide had to make up the balance of £325 to reach the required £800. This would have proved no embarrassment to the South Australian Association, but for some reason a cable was sent to Canada asking them to accept £750. The Canadians were not pleased, and promptly cabled back that the arrangements would be terminated unless the Australians sent £950. The Victorian Association was critical of the action of the South Australian Association, but they and the Melbourne Cricket Club were anxious that the visit should be made. The Melbourne Cricket Club, keen to support the project, guaranteed £250 toward it, and promptly wrote out the cheque. Major Wardill then received a telegram from Mr. J. Creswell, secretary of the South Australian Association stating that they would at that time pay up only half of the guarantee. Major Wardill replied that if the South Australian Association would not pay more than half their commitment, neither would the Melbourne Cricket Club. He promptly destroyed the cheque for £250, and replaced it with one for £125. These bickerings were finally sorted out, and £900 was sent to the Canadians and accepted by them. In spite of the differences between the Victorian and the South Australian Associations, peace was restored, and new determination to allow nothing to mar the success of the visit of the Canadians was made. The business affairs having been duly arranged, the time was fast approaching when the practical details of selecting teams and arranging events needed to be taken in hand. "Left Home", of "The Leader", reminded his readers on June 15th 1907 that the Canadian team would arrive in Brisbane in four weeks time, and that the first international match was to take place in Melbourne in six weeks time, but the matter of selecting teams had still to be arranged. The final selection of teams was to be left in the hands of the Victorian and the South Australian associations, each of which would provide one selector. The selectors had been duly appointed, Mr L. Humphries for South Australia, and Mr W.B. House for Victoria. There was no arrangement as yet made of resolving any difference of opinion that might arise between the selectors. The Victorian association indicated that in its opinion the position should be given to the player from the state in which the particular game was being played. The South Australian Association suggested arbitration by Mr. A. J. Rudd, and ex-Victorian then playing in South Australia. Eventually the South Australian view was adopted, and Mr. Rudd was appointed to arbitrate upon any difference of opinion that might arise between the two selectors. That lacrosse was winning a significant world-wide following was indicated in a letter received by Mr. J. Forster, President of the Victorian Lacrosse Association from Mr. F.B.C. Bacon, Hon. secretary of the British Olympic Association. This body was making arrangements in England for the Olympic Games to be held in London the following year. Lord Desborough, the President of the Olympic Association, had expressed a strong view that lacrosse should be played about April next. The Olympic Association would not be able to meet any player's expenses, travelling or otherwise, but he looked forward to seeing an Australian team come to London. The letter was to be considered at the next meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association.

The immediate concern, however, was the imminent arrival of the Canadians. Interest was fermented by the publication of the names of the Canadian players: Jack Kearns (Arthur), Bob Gilbert, W. Allen (Toronto Junction); Dr. Q.H. Campbell, Fred Coombes, Vic. Bradford (Bradford); Bill Hanley (Stratford); Tommy Doyle (Newmarket); Tom Hanley (Midland); Frank Grace (Armprin); Frost Marion (Tecumseh); Gordon H. Donald (Port Arthur); Les Bachus (Shelburne). The team was well supplied with goal-keepers, Alton, Arens, Bill Hanley and Bschus all being goal-keepers, as well as being skilful players further afield.

The pennant fixtures in Victoria and South Australia were drawing to a conclusion so that the names of the players to be considered for inter-national selection were becoming evident. Mr. House, the Victorian selector, visited Adelaide to watch between teams of prospective candidates; and Mr Humphries, the South Australian selector, with Mr. Rudd, the arbitrator, visited Melbourne to watch a similar match in Victoria. In the evening of the match played in Melbourne the Australian team was selected. With some reservations, the selected team met with the approval of critics. The team was:

Goal, F. Delves (Vic); Point, E.O. Gooden (S.A.); Cover-point, L. Jones (S.A.); Third Man, C. Hughes (S.A.); Left Defence, C. Graham (Vic); Right Defence, V. Steet, (Vic); Centre, F.Kell (S.A.); Left Attack, A.S. Mann (S.A.); Right Attack, W.C. Noblett (S.A.); Left Home, L. Humphris (S.A.); Right Home, R. Taylor (S.A.); Home, W. Bryning (Vic). Emergencies, Point, Cover Point or Third Man, R. Bryning (Vic); Defence, J. Fletcher, (S.A.): Attack, A. Box, (Vic); Right Home, G. Gay (Vic); Home, A. Presgrave, (S.A.).

It was made clear that selection was only for the first match. This left room for adjustments after the selectors had been able to observe the Canadian style of play.

The details of the Canadian team, as published in "The Leader", 27 July 1907 were:

H. J. ARENS. (Goal-keeper). 23 years of age, 6ft. 3 ins, 12 st. 1lb, Captain of the Toronto University team. Previously played with the Orilla Club. Assisted to win three Ontario championships and two Canadian Lacrosse Association championships.

Dr. H. L. CAMPBELL. (Point) is the G.O.M. of the team; 40 years of age. 5ft 10½ ins. 10st 10lb. Plays for Bradford, and has been in more championship teams than any other player in Canada.

J.M. KEARNS (Cover-point) is senior vice-president of the Canadian Lacrosse Association; 29 years of age, 5ft 10ins, 11st. 9lb, is now a member of the Arthur club, but formerly played for Bangwille. He helped to win three Canadian championships.

THOS HANLEY. (Third Man). 22 years of age, 6ft , 11st 8lb., played for several years with the Orilla club, but now plays for the Midland club. He helped to win two championships, is an all-round sport, and expert football and hockey player.

ALEX ROSE (Right Defence). is 23 years of age, 5ft 9ins, weighs 10st 8lb. Has always played with Orilla. An all-round player, and filled every position in the team in championship contests.

W.J. HANLEY. (Left Defence). 27 years of age. 6ft. 11st. 1 lb. Is captain of the team. Formerly played with Toronto University, now with Stratford, has played in 7 championship teams. Went to England with the Toronto team in 1902. Is an all-round sport, and excels specially in hockey and canoeing.

FRANK GRACE. (Centre) a relative of W.G. of cricketing fame, 27 years of age, 5ft 9ins, 11st 1lb. Formerly of Chatham, now of Arnprior club.

FRED COOMBS, (Right Attack). 26 years of age. 5ft 6ins, and the lightweight of the team, turning the scales of 9st 11lbs. Plays for Toronto University and Bradford, and has been in four championship teams.

ROBERT GILBERT. (Right Attack) is one of the two juniors of the team, being only 19 years of age, stands 5ft 7ins in height, and weighs 10st. Is a member of Toronto Junction Shamrock teams, the holder of the present Canadian L.A. Championship.

GORDON MACDONALD. (Left Home) is 28 years of age, 5ft 8 ins, 12st. 8lb is an all-round sport, being prominent in cricket, rowing, football and boxing as well as in lacrosse: plays with the Port Arthur club, and is a member of the Port Arthur Rowing Club.

W.D. RAINORE; (Right home) is 24 years of age, 5ft 9ins in height, 10st 5lb plays with the Fergus club, three times winner of the Ontario Championship, also played with Toronto University.

E.V. GRAHAM; (Home) 23 years of age, 5ft 11 ins, 11st 9lb. Bradford and Toronto University player;

H. CAMPLIN; (Emergency Defence) 24 years of age, 5ft 11ins, 11st 1 lb., is an excellent defence; a member of Toronto Junction Shamrock, C.L.A. Champions.

WALTON (Emergency goal-keeper and Home Field) 19 years of age, 5ft 9ins a good all-round player of the Toronto University.

J.C. MILLER (manager) is a past president of the Canadian Lacrosse Association., and a cousin of Joe Gaudaur, champion sculler of the world.

Before coming to Melbourne, the Canadians had played a game against the Queensland state team. Their presence had aroused great interest, 10,000 spectators having watched the game. The Canadians had been on land for only a week after a sea voyage of four weeks, followed by a train journey. Although they had tried to keep up their condition while on board ship, they had no ball practice. This was apparent in the first quarter of the match at Brisbane, and when the teams changed over, Queensland led by 2 goals to 1. At half time the score-board showed Queensland 3 goals Canada 2 goals, When the quarter ended, the scores were equal; but in the last twenty minutes the Canadians let themselves go, and, rattling up another three goals, won by 6 goals to 3.

This match gave the Australian their first glimpse of the Canadian style of play. It was judged that the Queensland team matched the Canadians in speed, but the Canadians were superior in handling the crosse, in accuracy of throwing, passing and receiving, and in forcing tactics. Their second match, played in Sydney against a New South Wales side, showed that the visitors were running into form. At the end of the third quarter they had scored 11 goals to nil. During the last quarter they contented themselves with a defensive game, and there was no change in the scores.

The Canadian were warmly welcomed in Melbourne at Spencer Street Railway Station on the Wednesday preceding the inter-national match, by the executive officers of the Victorian Lacrosse Association and about 400 players. After the greetings had been exchanged they were driven in a drag to the Grand Hotel, and after lunch they were formally welcomed to Victoria by the Lord Mayor. All the speakers spoke felicitously, and again, at a welcome extended to them by the Melbourne Cricket Club at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the same vein of good humour was evident. In the evening their entertainment took the form of a theatre party to "The Blue Moon" at the Princess Theatre and so the time arrived when all the efforts by so many people over many years would be rewarded. An Australian team would play against a Canadian team. The match immediately put to rest any anxieties pessimists might have concerning the financial success of the tour. As the "Australasian" commented; "Even the most enthusiastic supporter of lacrosse did not anticipate that about 16,000 people would witness the first test match in Melbourne on the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The Victorian Football League had arranged inter-state matches for that week-end, which no doubt had an influence on enlarging the attendance at the lacrosse match. It all shows that the visit of the Canadians received support from all sportsmen. "Left Home", of "The Leader", made a number of knowledgeable comments. He indicated that it was only a little over thirty years since L.L. Mount introduced the game into Victoria, and, with the assistance of a few friends, gave it a start at Albert Park. However, from that time no Canadian had helped its progress. In fact, L.L. Mount had left Canada as a boy of twelve, and, no doubt, considered himself an Australian. It seemed therefore inevitable that the game would develop along different lines from those in Canada. He then analysed the tactics of the two teams. The Canadians, he observed, set out to secure the ball, and, by means of short passes between two or three players, carry it towards the opponent's goals, and when within the "home line" about 25 or 30 yards out, all the "homes" bear down on the goal like an avalanche, and at the same time, by short and quick passes to one another, bewilder their opponents and force the ball through the goal. The rush is marvellous, and Australian players at present can only wonder how they do it. Their main defence-goalkeeper, point, cover-point and third man- take up positions in front of goal which practically leaves no opening for the opposing "homes", and the facility with which they secure the ball almost before it leaves the opponent's crosse was perhaps even more remarkable than the ease with which they retained possession once the ball was in their crosse.

"Left Attack" in "The Australasian" also noted fundamental differences in the styles of play of the two countries. The play of the Canadians, be noted, was a revelation to the Australians. The tactics of the two teams were a study in contrasts. The Canadians, he stated, indulge in practically no wing work. They confine their play to as narrow a space as possible in the centre. They take the ball from

one end to the other by a series of short, sharp passes, rarely more than a dozen yards in length. In catching and general stick-work they were generally vastly superior to the home men, but their sticks are much better adapted for catching than those used by the Australians. They are wider and the strings are loose. Consequently, when the ball gets into a crosse it is easily retained there. Still, with loose strings shooting is slow, and in that department the Australians had an immense advantage. The Canadian methods of attack are just the opposite to the system generally adopted here. The Australians keep their goal very open, and invariably shoot from a fairly long range. The Canadians, on the other hand, crowd right in, and rely on short passes to give them an opportunity. Their homes never shoot until they are almost on top of the goal-keeper. Their methods of defending the goal were a revelation to the Australians. Point and cover, when the goal was threatened, took up positions immediately in front of the goal-keeper, and the other backs came crowding in. They closed around the goal in a half-circle, and kept the Australian forwards 25 to 30 yards out. When a shot came in it had to pass a forest of sticks, and frequently did not reach the goal-keeper, point doing the stop for him. It took the Australians some time to realise the futility of attempting long-range shots. Humphris sent in a stinging one, but it was brilliantly stopped before it reached Arens. He thought it a fluke, and later on, tried another, with the same result. Then he realised that the only thing to do was to manoeuvre until they could get a favourable position. The Canadians do not use speed, but rely almost entirely on their short, tricky passing, and their combination. The Australians realised that their only hope of success lay in making use of their speed and the advantage that their fast shooting would give them. They made the pace very fast at the outset and never allowed the Canadian combination to get properly working. Hanley was under the impression at half-time that the Australians could not keep up the pace.

The game proved enthralling to the spectators. Two skilful teams opposed to each other, and each adopting entirely different tactics, provided an exciting spectacle. As "Left Home" stated; "It was a great contest, played throughout with manifest determination, yet with the utmost good feeling, and no one could definitely say who would win until the final bell rang. Australian enthusiasm became increasingly intense as the home team edged to a lead, defeating the visitors by 5 goals to 3.

Good relations were increased between the two teams at a dinner held to honour the Canadian team at the Vienna Cafe, attended by over a hundred people, Mr. Shappere presided, and among the guests were the Lord Mayor of Melbourne and Mr. Justice Cussen. responding to the toast of the Canadian team, Mr. Hanley said he was much surprised and pleased. The next fixture in Victoria was to have been a match against Victoria, but the test match had proved such a success that it was decided to play another test match. "Left Match" anticipated another excellent crowd. Twenty years previously, he stated, ladies had formed a considerable part of the crowd who watched football. By the time of the visit of the Canadian lacrosse team the popularity among ladies of football had waned. As the football clubs grew the players had become remote from the spectators, and, whereas before the ladies knew many of the players, now they were strangers. The brutality, "Left Attack" claimed, that had crept into football repelled the ladies, and their allegiance was now to lacrosse. Not, of course, that lacrosse was a game for weakness. Steet, a Victorian representative in the test side, had earned admiration for his courage in continuing to play in spite of having accidentally received a head wound that needed to be stitched, and he continued the game with his head swathed in bandages.

The second test match between Canada and Australia was played in Adelaide. An enthusiastic crowd of 12,000 people attended the Adelaide Cricket Ground to watch the game they had been working for over a long time. Mr John Cresswell, the secretary of the South Australian Cricket Association, stated that the crowd was the biggest they had seen at the Adelaide Oval for many years. There were differences in the way the game was played in Canada from that in Australia. One difference lay in the length of the ground. In Canada the regulation distance between the goals was 115 yards; in Australia the minimum length was 150 yards. As a compromise, the South Australian Association made the distance 130 yards. There was also a difference in the weight of the ball, the Canadian ball being an ounce heavier than the Australian. The compromise reached in this case was that the Australian ball should be used for the first half and the Canadian for the second. It seems that the Canadians did not altogether relish being beaten by the Australians. If they had won easily, as they no doubt expected to, it was unlikely that they would have quibbled over the length of the ground of

the weight of the ball. They adopted tactics that would not be countenanced in Australia to counteract the Australian superiority in speed. The Canadians again demonstrated their brilliant methods. Their form had sharpened up considerably on that demonstrated in Melbourne. The "tacking" of the Canadians, "Left Home" stated, was so precise that the ball passed always just out of the reach of the Australian crosses to the exact spot where it was intended to go. The Australians, on the other hand, misjudged the flight of the ball, and frequently failed to retain it when it was sent direct to them. The game was closely contested, the Canadians winning by 6 goals to 3. "Left Attack", of "The Australasian", in his analysis of the game, suggested that the change of the ball after half-time to the heavier Canadian one, may have been a contributing factor for the apparent ineptitude of the Australian stickwork, but it is unlikely that such a minor difference would have a match-winning influence.

The Canadians, while using their distinctive "possession" tactics, adopted others to reduce the Australian advantage of speed. These were effective, though they did not win universal approval. "The Canadians", Left Attack commented, "were rougher and trickier than their opponents. They did not hesitate to smash at the body, trip, shepherd and lay hands on their opponents' crosses, and, in the first half, the referee, Mr. Rudd, had to call up the ball seven times and award the Australians a free throw. The penalty proved utterly inadequate." As any Australian Rules footballer will know, the secret of possession tactics is to keep the ball moving. The many checks to the movement of the ball caused by the type of play the Canadians adopted, would significantly have reduced the advantage the Australians might have won through their superior speed.

Nevertheless, no official objection was raised over the Canadian methods. "The Canadians took their victory, "Left Home" wrote, "just as quietly as they accepted defeat in the previous match." At the end of a happy Smoke Night at which the Canadians were entertained, Mr. J. Cresswell, on behalf of the South Australian Cricketing Association, presented the manager of the Canadian team, Mr. Miller, with a silk flag in the colours of the team, purple and white, with the word "Canada". The flag was made by a young lady of Adelaide.

Though some restiveness about certain aspects of the Canadian play was becoming evident, a crowd of 11,000 people attended the Melbourne Cricket Ground for the third test. It was a closely contested game, the Canadians eventually winning by 4 goals. It must be remembered that in Australia lacrosse was a strictly amateur game, whereas in Canada most lacrosse players were professionals, and some of the less desirable influences of professionalism had affected the ethics of the game in Canada. "Left Home" commented with some bluntness on some aspects of the Canadian play. "The Canadians played very unfairly throughout," he wrote, "and there were several instances of cowardice, if not brutality.... On Saturday last nearly every member of the team offended.

"Left Attack" was similarly critical of the Canadian ethics of the game. "The Australian public," he wrote, "resents the tactics of the tripper, and of the man who takes an unfair advantage of his opponent...I have no doubt that lacrosse, as played in Canada, is a much more strenuous game than it is here. I have also no doubt that the basketball tactics of 'bluff the umpire if you can' have strayed across the Hudson until the morale of the Canadian game is 'Win, gently if you can, but win, even if it means sailing as close to the wind as possible.' Canadian residents in Melbourne have told me that they regretted seeing their countrymen tripping with foot or crosse, but," they added, 'your rules only penalise the law-breaker by giving a free position to his opponent. This is not adequate, and the referee should be given stronger powers....'. The conclusion on this subject seems clear. Australians have striven to make the game what Sir John Madden called it, 'as sport for thoroughbreds', by banishing all roughness from it, by keeping it fast and open, by instilling into the minds of players that 'fair play is bonny play' ..Lacrosse has been nothing if not an amateur sport here, and has been played in the true spirit of amateurism; but our Canadian visitors, who have played side by side with professionals, have been educated to take all that the law gives, and as much more as the referee will overlook....The third test, played yesterday, saw the Canadians victorious by 4 goals to nil, and there is not the slightest doubt that the better side won." The fourth test, played in Adelaide, was marred by unseemly play. The crowd resented the tactics of Canada, who did not hesitate to punish their opponents heavily, even by flagrant breaches of the rules. The Australians naturally retaliated now and again, but rarely stooped to measures that were more than fairly rough. In one serious

scrimmage, Camplin, of Canada, laid around him on all sides, and when Humphris attempted to pass to Kell, Camplin smashed them both. Kell replied vigorously with his fists. The referee parted them, but immediately Camplin winded Humphris by jabbing his stick into his ribs. Noblett rushed in and knocked Camplin over. Fisticuffs and a wrestling match ensued until mounted troopers and a fellow player separated them, when Noblett and Camplin were dismissed for the remainder of the play. Canadian tactics of wasting time behind the goal were resented by the crowd, who hooted vigorously. The game took on a tremendous race, and ended by Canada winning by 6 goals to 4.

Neither "Left Home" nor "Left Attack" reported the usual social felicities that had hitherto concluded their reports. The Canadians then travelled to Western Australia where they played two games against Western Australian sides, each of which they won easily. They attracted good crowds, 4,000 having attended the game against a goldfields side at Kalgoorlie. "Left Attack" summed up the results of the tour by remarking that "we have learned much from our Canadian visitors that we trust will improve our game. We have been shown some points which we will take every pains to stamp out of our lacrosse. He concluded, "The visitors have gone, and have beaten us, but we can wish them bon voyage and good luck.

The visit of the Canadian team seems to have brought many benefits. "Left Home" of "The Leader", on 21 September 1907, expressed it thus; "The lacrosse season of 1907, which concluded on Saturday last, will have an important bearing on the history of lacrosse in Australia. For thirty years the game has struggled against the strongest of "British" prejudice to gain a footing in the land of the southern cross. Its peculiar fascination for all who have played it, however, has resulted in a gradual widening of its influence, until its devotees felt that it had reached a stage when a team from Canada (the home of the game) could be brought to Australia without imposing too great a strain on the financial resources of the various associations. The team has come and gone, and its doings have been so recently recorded that recapitulation is unnecessary, save to say that while the game has by its visit been helped on very considerably, it has shown that, in Canada at least, tactics have been introduced into the play the reverse of sportsmanship, and which it is safe to say Australians would never adopt. If, however, the Australians adopt the best features of the Canadian game, and graft them on to the Australian, which has developed a slightly divergent line, there need be no fear for the future of the game in Australia. In Victoria the influence of the visit is apparent on all sides, and next season it is certain to see the ranks of players considerably augmented. Nearly all clubs have been approached by would be players, while several have been asked to lend their assistance and advice in forming new clubs. In the provinces clubs have been formed at Numurkah, Shepparton and Tatura, and later at Bendigo. Castlemaine is anxious to follow the same direction, and Ballarat, though to a lesser degree than Bendigo and Castlemaine, is moving to the same end".

The question of amateurism is being more urgently raised in lacrosse. No doubt some of the undesirable elements in Canadian play might have caused people to think seriously of the status of the game. The whole amateur movement was bringing pressure to bear in all sports. The lacrosse association had always had amicable relationships with the Amateur Sports Club, and the feeling among the various branches of amateur sport was that more solidarity should be developed among the various amateur bodies. At the end of 1907 it was sufficient for the Victorian Lacrosse Association that an Amateur should be amateur so far as lacrosse was concerned, but he might exercise himself as a professional in other branches of sport. Other amateur bodies, especially amateur rowing and amateur athletics, believed that an amateur should be amateur in whatever activity be pursued. Participation in any form of professional sport should entail the loss of amateur status. "Left Home", no doubt speaking for many lacrosse players, advised caution in adopting the extreme position without thinking it over carefully. He pointed out that of the lacrosse players who indulged in other sports professionally, their conduct on the field had been exemplary. Without definitely detailing the sources of pressure for absolute amateurism, he stated that outside influences had been at work to effect a change. He admitted that there were on the nominal roll of lacrosse players several who had competed in professional foot-races. He felt that to make a stringent principle of amateurism would only result in a diminution of players supporting the game. The question was to be raised at the annual meeting of the association to be held on the 1st October.

In 1907 ladies were practicing lacrosse in the Western Australian goldfields under the "tutelage of men" from the Kalgoorlie Lacrosse Club.

After the excitement of the Canadian visit, it would have been too much to expect the high level of interest aroused in 1907 to be maintained. The early report indicated that a new and radical movement was about to begin. "Left Home", in "The Leader" of 2 May 1908 wrote: "Hitherto ladies have not ventured into the field of lacrosse, but quite recently the East Melbourne Ladies Cricket Club asked for copies of the rules of the game, and for hints on how to play it, and now Merton Hall, The Church of England Girls Grammar School, has actually formed a team at the college.

Through some confusion, no matches against Tasmanian teams were arranged for 1908. This was unfortunate, for lacrosse was slowly becoming established in Tasmania, and the game could not be well served by anything that would hamper its development, such as the absence of interstate competition.

Some exotic flavour was added to the game when the Victorian Lacrosse Association tried to arrange a match against a team from the American Fleet which was to visit Australia during that year. Unfortunately the match did not occur, for the fleet could not find among its members enough players to form a team.

One of the important matters of the 1908 season was to make an assessment of the benefits that Australian lacrosse had gained through the visit of the Canadian team. It certainly stimulated interest, but it remained to be seen how permanent the impetus might be. First impressions were that the visit would bring long-term benefits. There was an increase of nine teams entered for the pennant competitions, which was an increase of 33%. In the country it was reported that four teams were being formed in Bendigo. At Warragul Mr. B.J. Dunn, ex-University player stated that he had strong hopes of getting a team together. The provision of new crosses for players was a difficulty. The entire stocks in Melbourne had been sold out, but another shipment had just arrived and another was on the water. Some suburban clubs stated that they could easily increase their numbers, but finding suitable grounds in their districts was difficult.

Whether the Canadian visit was altogether beneficial was not clear. The Canadians demonstrated new tactics into the game, but they also showed in some ways a different point of view, resorting to unnecessary roughness and a disregard for the ethics of the game as it is played in Victoria. As reported in "The Leader", 8 August 1908, a recommendation was made to the permit committee relating to "charging". It was suggested that no player should deliberately run at an opponent. The "body check" had long been a feature of lacrosse, i.e. stopping the progress of the player with the ball. The player applying a body-check did it from a standing position, and a skilful player might easily try to pass him by rolling or twisting around him. The newly introduced technique was something more than rough. It may have arisen from the Canadian strategy of driving the ball towards the goal by a cohesive group penetrating opposing defences from the centre. The objection to the charge arose from the mobile attacker fending off the defender with his crosse.

There were matters of internal administration that needed discussion. The question of applying residential qualification to players was raised. The joining of a particular club seemed in many cases to be influenced by personal friendships rather than by residential ties. It was evident that the most successful clubs concentrated their recruiting within their own districts. No action was taken. There was some concern expressed concerning the administration for finance. It was felt by many that the time was ripe for a re-organisation of financial practice. Their current methods had worked satisfactorily enough when the association was smaller and the amount of money turned over by the association was relatively insignificant. With the increased membership of the various clubs the money handled by the association became more considerable. It was considered that the finances of the association should now be placed on a more business-like basis.

None of the matters arising in 1908 give the impression of dynamic advance; rather that the lacrosse associations were drawing their breath after the exertions of the Canadian visit, and the matters under their various jurisdictions were falling back to the normal tenor of activities.

At the beginning of 1909 it was evident that lacrosse in Victoria was still an active and growing sport. It was now achieving enough significance for it to consider its sphere in relation with other organised games. The question of amateurism was causing friction in many sports and the time had come when the administrators of Lacrosse must clarify their position. Amateurism in cricket was a nebulous concept. In football there were amateurs playing beside professionals in the same team. Tennis was still very much a game for amateurs. Rowing was probably the most militantly amateur sport of all, though athletics also made a clear division. The professionals might have their Stawell Gift and the Sheffield Handicaps, but no amateur could compete in them and also in amateur events. Lacrosse had always been strong in its own amateur ideals, but it was known that many lacrosse players were professional in other branches of sport. The Victoria Lacrosse Association therefore viewed with some concern the proposition put forward by the Victorian Rowing Association that the Rowing Association, the Amateur Athletic Association and the Amateur Swimming Association should join in forming an Amateur Federation, with the principal object of formulating a definition of an amateur applicable to all sports affiliating with the federation. It was clear that, as the Victorian Lacrosse Association's rules stood at the time, no member of the Amateur Federation would be eligible to play lacrosse. Mr. W.B. House pointed out that there were many rowing men playing lacrosse, and also others who had been footballers. According to the proportion the rowing men were acceptable but footballers were to be ostracised. The proposition was defeated by 20 votes to 5. Most members attending the meeting felt that the governing bodies of various sports should be free to conduct their own affairs.

The general success of the Canadian visit, both in immediate terms and in those of spin-offs, had given rise to a proposal to invite a team from England to visit Australia. There were said to be 16,000 players in England, and the Canadians had to play very hard to beat the English team in the Olympic contest in London. Harvey Sutton (Melbourne), and Lionel Robinson (Adelaide) had played in the inter-university contests in England last year. It was proposed that the English team be invited to arrive in Australia in the middle of 1910, to co-incide with the university vacation. The cost would be about £1,500. Substantial offers of financial contributions had already been made to support the tour. The matter was taken up at the next meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association's, reported on 12 May 1909. There it was proposed that a letter be sent to England with regard to the possible visit of a team to visit Australia during the August of 1910, either a team made up of the combined universities, or, if they preferred, a team representing the English Lacrosse Association. They offered a guarantee of £1,500.

In the meantime the old rivalry between South Australia and Victoria was taken up again in Melbourne. The game was played in perfect weather before a large attendance. The Lieut. Governor, Sir John Madden, Patron of the Victorian association warmly greeted the players. To the joy of the Victorian supporters, their team was successful, beating the South Australia by 9 goals to 5. This was the first Victorian victory over South Australia since 1904. The visit ended with a happy dinner at the Savoy.

Lacrosse administrators, at the beginning of 1910, were delighted with the progress the game had made in Victoria. There were now 49 metropolitan teams, and nearly 600 players taking part each week. The game was said to be going well in Bendigo, which would send a team to play against a metropolitan team on the Melbourne Cricket Ground on the 6th June. It was hoped that the Ballarat Association would also send a team to Melbourne later in the season. Among the schools, there were lacrosse teams at Melbourne Grammar School, Xavier College, Brighton Grammar School, and teams of schoolboys at Malvern.

The inter-state competition took a new form during 1910. A carnival of lacrosse was to be organised in Adelaide from 2-9 July, to which all states who wished to do so might send teams. New South Wales had hoped to include representatives from Broken Hill in the New South Wales team, but the Barrier Region is more closely associated with South Australia than with New South Wales, and the Broken Hill lacrosse players preferred to send a team of their own. The eventual programme for the Carnival included S.A., Victoria, W.A., N.S.W. and Queensland.

The pennant competitions for 1910 were carried to a satisfactory conclusion, although the round set down for 14 May was abandoned on account of the death of King Edward VII.

The future of lacrosse at the end of 1910 looked bright. It was reported that there were three teams playing in Bendigo and two more were starting. A move to organise the game at Kyneton was also reported. A club which was to have an influence on Victoria for many years to come, The Adult Deaf Mute team, was admitted to the association, as was reported in "The Leader" of 23 April 1910.

The probable retirement of Mr. F. Delves from active lacrosse was announced in the issue of 14 May 1910. The news was received with regret. He had served the game faithfully and effectively. He had first belonged to the original Caulfield club, where he earned a reputation as a goal-keeper. He then inaugurated a team at Carlton, affiliated with the Carlton Cricket Club. This team, after some success, lapsed. He then joined the team affiliated with the St. Kilda Cricket Club, formerly South Melbourne. Later he joined the Hawksburn club, where he played until 1908, when he transferred to the Fitzroy club. He became the first and foremost member of the teams representing the Victorian association interstate, and was considered to be the best goal-keeper in Australia. He had been a unanimous choice for teams to play against Canada. His retirement would be a great loss.

The report in "The Australasian" of 6 May 1911 continued the optimistic note. It emphasised a gratifying increase in the number of young players. This, it stated, was due in part to the increasing influence in football. We may note that at this time a sort of militant amateurism was apparent in sport. The "Schools Athletic Association of Victoria": was split by a breakaway group of the more important private schools, to form the "Schools Amateur Athletic Association of Victoria". Further discontent with the interpretation of the word "amateur" caused a further breakaway, and the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria came into being. There were then many small private schools, or schools conducted by religious bodies in all sorts of country towns, and many of these schools did not take too seriously the rather pedantic attitude of some of the more militant amateurs. In a country town it was no great thing for a young athlete to be given half a crown as a reward for winning a foot race. This, in the opinions of the purists constituted the forfeiture of amateur status. The "public" schools-- "public" because the denominations which had been their founding bodies had been given grants of public land by Governor Latrobe so that some sort of education might be established in the Port Phillip District--had always been supporters of the amateur movement. After all, they drew their students from the classes then deemed automatically to be amateur. Catholic schools did not take sport so seriously, and they had among their students many boys who were by no means automatic amateurs. Thus, men like Adamson of Wesley became the pillars of amateurism. It was only to be expected, therefore, that some at least of the schools would encourage lacrosse. "Left Attack" mentioned particularly in this regard Mr. J.L. Aicken, of Melbourne Grammar School, who had organised a team of lacrosse players there. He also mentioned Mr. Richard Garland, a one time Canadian champion, who had established a team for boys in Brighton, with the support of that stout defender of amateurism, Dr. Crowther, of Brighton Grammar School. Amateurism in lacrosse was only a part of the general amateur movement among sports organised in Melbourne. Supporters of lacrosse were unanimously and vociferously. "Left Attack" took up the theme again the following week, 13 May 1911. "A pleasing feature of the season," he wrote, "is the enthusiasm of the juniors, and the keenness with which they are endearing into their matches. The game of lacrosse is a good one, and deserves well of the rising generation. With senior football under a cloud on the amateur question, the boy who wants to represent his state in sport has a chance in lacrosse. There are none of the ills so apparent in football. It is as strenuous as the most sturdy could desire. It offers inducements to men of stamina and pace, and in it skill counts for more than anything else. The game is rapidly growing in public favour; the association has only to keep on as it is going to find itself much more important than it ever dreamt of being."

It is possible that this laudable proselytism may have had its dangers. The worst excesses of professionalism would be removed when the organisations concerned became aware of their harmful effects. Professionalism did not necessarily mean that the professional did not have a real love for his sport. Professionalism had existed side by side with amateurism in cricket for a very long time, and many of the most respected names in cricket were those of professional players. There was more than a minor danger of amateurism becoming little more than an esoteric clique, having little influence on the conduct of the world's major sport. These things, as we now know, have come to pass. We need only consider the international sports like cricket, tennis and athletics to see how

"amateurism" became first a subterfuge and then a mockery. Whatever the long term situation, amateurism was strictly applied in lacrosse.

No matter how pure the attitude towards paid sport may be, there are expenses involved in conducting any organised sport. In his article on 13 May 1911 "Left Attack" foresaw the day when the popularity of lacrosse would be such that it could earn a considerable income through gate-money. This source of affluence, he foresaw, would benefit strong clubs and be an embarrassment to weak ones. He proposed that all gate-moneys should be administered by the association for the general good of the game. Amateurs had now gained control of their own sporting arena, and devotees of Lacrosse should do their share in developing the Amateur Sports Ground. To propagate the game actively, sticks should be made available cheaply to school-boys and juniors whose earnings were negligible. Some weaker clubs might at first need support. The spirit of amateurism "he maintained", was completely opposed to successful clubs building up big bank-balances. Amateurism must be defended rigorously. He deplored the previous decision of the association to fail to support the full definition of the amateur as put forward by the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association. However, the lacrosse took a strict view on the matter of reinstatement of players who had joined professional ranks."

The matter was further discussed in "The Australasian" the following week. (20 May 1911). Many lacrosse administrators considered that legislation for gate-money was a little premature. Before a club can earn gate-money it needs to have a gate through which patrons must pass; i.e. the ground must be enclosed. Few lacrosse clubs played on such grounds. The only gate-money arising from lacrosse came from interstate games, and the disposal of that money was already in the hands of the Australian association.

These propositions and counter-propositions did not greatly interest the majority of players. Their concern was with playing the game, and, judging by the rivalry exhibited in the pennant competitions, the interest was lively.

Interest in lacrosse in country centres remained high, as "Left Attack" stated on 10 June 1911. Kyneton was reported as an established centre. There was a team at Daylesford, and a couple of teams at Geelong. On 17 June 1911 "The Australasian" reported that a team had been formed at Benalla, and an association had developed with teams at Violet Town, Wangaratta and Euroa. The Benalla people had invited two metropolitan teams to visit them, and offered to meet the expenses. "It has been a long pull for the promoters," wrote "Left Attack", "but at last the game has become firmly established and is going ahead by leaps and bounds."

Though lacrosse players in Tasmania felt that the standard of their play was not yet high enough to warrant their taking part in regular interstate competition, contact with lacrosse players on the mainland was encouraged. On 26 August "The Leader" reported that a team from the Melbourne Cricket Club would depart for Tasmania on the "Loongana" to play a series of exhibition matches in Tasmania.

An imaginative step was reported in "The Leader" of 2 September 1911, when it stated that negotiations were in progress for games between the Petersham school in New South Wales, the premier school of that state, against teams in Victoria formed through the activities of various schools, specifically mentioned was the Deaf and Dumb school and the Brighton Wanderers, these schools being the premiers and the runners-up in the Victorian Lacrosse Association's schools division. This attention paid to players at the junior level augured well for a stream of perspective players for the senior clubs in the seasons to come.

The first reports for season 1912 indicated that the optimism shown during 1911 was justified. On 6 April 1912 "The Leader" stated that, most lacrosse clubs having held their annual meetings, the prospects for the season could be assessed. Most clubs reported pleasing progress. Higher memberships had led to more adequate finance, and it seemed that clubs generally were in a sound position.

At the annual meeting of the Victorian association changes in the constitution were made. The constitution had been drawn up when there were about 100 players in the association, and only six clubs. The general committee of the association was then determined as one representative from each team. At the beginning of 1912 the number of lacrosse players was 767, and the number of clubs and teams had grown to such an extent that the full committee now numbered 55 members. The annual meeting accepted almost unanimously a proposition from a sub-committee that the number of delegates should be reduced, by allowing one delegate from clubs with less than 50 members and 2 delegates from those clubs with 50 - 100 members.

A scheme for conducting a lacrosse carnival in Melbourne prepared by Mr H.E. Poole received the unanimous approval of the meeting. The carnival would be held from the 10 - 17 August, and teams from every state in the Commonwealth would take part. The financial arrangements had been carefully worked out, and, given fine weather, there was every reason to believe that the carnival would be a success. Even if the weather was unpropitious, the loss would not exceed £50 a sum which an association consisting of over 700 active members could easily afford. The financial statement showed an improvement of about £20, in spite of the expenses incurred in sending a team to New South Wales, and the importing of youth's crosses. These occasional expenses had amounted to £55.

It was decided that the pennant season should start on 27 April, this date being chosen so that the senior division fixtures could be completed before the beginning of the carnival. The arrangement of pennant fixtures was becoming increasingly difficult as more teams were entered by clubs, and new clubs applied for membership. At the last meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association two new clubs, Box Hill and Brighton Presbyterians, the latter club having two teams, were admitted. Two further applications were expected, the Adult Deaf and Dumb Association and the Melbourne High School. Although there was difficulty in providing coaches for some schools who would like to introduce the game, there was increasing interest in the schools generally. Encouragement of the game in country centres continued. The South Yarra club, for the opening of its season visited Kyneton at Easter. The South Yarra men were entertained by members of the Kyneton club. The visitors won the game by 11 goals to 5. On 1 June 1912, "The Leader" reported that the Williamstown club, having the bye that weekend also visited Kyneton, and stated that the Williamstown club had already done good work in encouraging the game in Geelong. It was hoped that the visit of the Williamstown club to Kyneton would also help the game in Daylesford. The Fitzroy team was to visit Bacchus March with a view to helping those who wanted to establish the game there.

In 1912 there were unfortunate incidents, and the Kew club began to earn an unsavoury reputation for its poor sportsmanship and unduly rough play. Adverse comment appeared first in the report on lacrosse of the 18th May. "Left Home" discussed undesirable aspects of the play of some members of the Kew club. During the previous season some of their players had shown little reluctance to use their crosses on the bodies of opposing players. In the match between South Yarra and Kew feelings had become warm. Both teams were reticent about the matter, but it was considered that the referee should send in a report and that the association should take steps to ensure that the amateur spirit of sportsmanship should be supported. It would appear that at one stage of that game some players had so lost the spirit of the game as to indulge to fisticuffs. This unfortunate attitude had not been eradicated in 1912. On 8 June, "Left Home" reported that the game between Essendon and Kew had been prematurely terminated. The captain of the Kew club refused to accept a decision of the referee, who thereupon stopped the game and awarded it to Essendon, the leaders at that moment of the game by 6 goals to 2. The referee identified one or two of the Kew players as being the instigators of the rough play, and "Left Home" felt that the rough play committee should deal with the matter decisively to prevent the malaise spreading to other clubs. Kew were still recalcitrant. On the 13th July "Left Home" reported that the referee of the match between M.C.C. and Kew had ordered off the ground one of the Kew players. The Kew supporters were vociferous in their abuse of the referee. If this had been a single incident the referee might have been at fault, but two others of the panel of referees had refused to act on the Kew ground on account of the abuse hurled at them by the public. "Left Home" deplored a situation where a club of predominantly sportsmanlike and skilful players was being misjudged on account of one of two players and a number of irresponsible supporters. For

lacrosse to remain a "sport of thoroughbreds" it was evident that the association should exercise its powers of discipline. The lacrosse authorities were learning that a rapid expansion in numbers and popularity can bring its own associated problems. When the case of the offending Kew player came before the "rough play" committee, he was disciplined by being disqualified until 16 June 1913. An appeal against the decision was lodged.

The end of the pennant competitions was reported on 27 July 1912. The lacrosse world now gave its attention to the interstate carnival. The significance of this carnival, and of the one held in Adelaide in 1910 has perhaps not always been fully appreciated. Historically it was only ten years since the autonomous states grudgingly and with mutual distrust amalgamated into a federation. The Constitution was carefully devised to protect state interests, while delegating certain specific responsibilities and sources of revenue to the federal authority. This constitution ever since has posed a number of problems, but with the passage of time we tend to overlook the truth that every state was determined to protect its individuality and its self-government. Even in 1912 a unified Australia was a vision rather than an actuality. Much had yet to be done to bring the citizen of New South Wales to accept that he was one with the citizen of Victoria, or that the citizen of Western Australia was one with "other siders" in being "Australian" in common with them. To achieve a unity, citizens from various states must be brought together, to know and respect one another, so that, man for man, they could meld into a common loyalty. The lacrosse carnival of 1912 was perhaps the first occasion on which men from all the states gathered together in mutual esteem for the common goal. The previous carnival in Adelaide had brought together at the one time and the one place representatives from five of the states. The 1912 lacrosse carnival had participants from all the states. Not only were they men, but they were also influential men; for the strictly amateur game, at a time when amateurism was largely a matter of class, attracted men of social standing and economic weight. The aims of the organisers were no doubt more immediate, and they sought to develop the game rather than play politics; but fact remains that for the first time in the history of Australia ordinary citizens from all the states gathered together in one place in mutual trust and amity.

It is true, of course, that inter-colonial, and later interstate cricket had been played for many years before, and the significance of federation on the selection of teams from those states supporting the Australian Cricket Council cannot be over estimated, but at no time did inter-colonial and interstate cricket bring together representatives from all the states at one place and at one time. Tennis and bowls also extended their influence across the borders, but their activities did not have the unity of the lacrosse carnivals. The Adelaide carnival of 1910 and the Melbourne Carnival of 1912 started something new. Though lacrosseurs may not have done much to establishing a nation of federalists, they at least showed that Queenslanders, New South Welshmen, Victorians, Tasmanians, South Australians and Western Australians were all becoming Australians. At least the Victorian Lacrosse Association was aware of these social and political overtones. "Left Home" of "The Leader" reported on 13 July that "Four weeks from today, the second lacrosse carnival will open in Melbourne, when every one of the six states will be represented. The carnival will be opened on 10 August, and conclude on the 17th. During those seven days (Sunday is, of course, excluded) no less than 15 matches will be played, 3 of them taking place on the opening day. On the day Western Australian and Tasmania will play at 11 a.m., New South Wales and Queensland at 12.45 pm and Victoria vs. South Australia at 3pm so that the public will have the opportunity of seeing the whole of the Australian representatives on the one day, and, it is to be hoped with fine weather, in similar conditions.

Such an event requires much organisation. One of the first tasks for the Victorians was the selection of a team. With the expansion of the game in Victoria, this was no easy matter, and any choice was likely to meet with disapproval. A list of 24 potential representatives was made, the players on the list pitted against one another in a practice match the following Saturday on the Albert Ground. From this the final selection was made, and the critics suggested that the team was weaker in defence than it needed to be. It was felt that the Victorian team would have to work hard to retain the pre-eminence it had won during the 1910 Carnival. South Australia had sent fifteen players, from whom a formidable team could be selected, and "Left Home" believed that the state which could beat South Australia would win the carnival.

The general organisation of the carnival, under the lead of the Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Association, Mr. H.E. Poole, had been well thought out, and, capable officials having been appointed, success was assured. The play was reported the following week in "The Leader" of 17 August 1912. The weather was fine, and the turnstiles indicated that about 5,000 spectators had attended on the opening day. This meant that all financial responsibilities would be met. The condition of the ground was excellent. In the first match of the day, Western Australia vs Tasmania, an easy win for the Western Australians was predicted. The Tasmanians, representing the last of the states to adopt the game, were philosophical. They expected to be beaten, but they hoped that through their experience in the carnival they would be able to improve the quality of their play. The game developed as anticipated; The Western Australians gave a fine lesson in forward play, and they won the match by 14 goals to 2.

The next match, New South Wales vs Queensland, provided much interest. It was a close game, with the lead changing continually. Eventually the New South Wales team won by 13 goals to 10.

The match of the day, as football commentators would dub it today, was between South Australia and Victoria. It was, as "Left Home" commented, "a splendid game", but, like so many "matches of the day", it was not as closely contested as anticipated. The Victorian team ran away to an early and unassailable lead of 11 goals to nil. The South Australians battled hard, and, towards the end of the game scored two goals without allowing the Victorians to increase their score, so that the match ended by Victoria winning by 11 goals to 2. The result was enthusiastically accepted by the Victorian team and its supporters, for it was the biggest margin between the two states since the interstate matches had begun. "Left Home" believed that the standard of lacrosse achieved in Victoria during 1912 was higher than it had ever been before. It was evident that the game was more skilfully played in Victoria and South Australia than in the other states, but it was pleasing to see the progress and development of the game throughout the Commonwealth.

An interstate conference was held at the Amateur Sports Club in Melbourne on the Wednesday evening of the carnival, when matters concerning rules and ethics were discussed. The following resolutions were carried.

- 1) The standard weight of the ball was to be 5 to 5½ ounces.
- 2) No player while in possession of the ball, or endeavouring to gain possession of the ball, would be allowed forcibly to keep away an opponent with his free arm.
- 3) The ball is dead for the cessation of play when the referees whistle sounds for any cause.
- 4) That the various associations be asked to instruct referees to enforce the rule relating to "free positions".
- 5) That the length of the playing ground be reduced to 110 yards.
- 6) That the next carnival be held in Sydney in 1914

A tribute was paid to the Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Association.

A success of the carnival had been due to his meticulous organisation. The takings of the various games were more than sufficient to meet all expenses, with a profit remaining. The money left after all the bills been paid was used to defray the travelling expenses of the Queensland and Western Australian players, because of the great distances they had to travel.

The lacrosse carnival gave "Left Home" an opportunity to assess at long range the values of the visit of the Canadian team in 1907. Five years had now passed since that historic time, and it was possible to see what permanent effects the visit had upon lacrosse in general in Australia.

He observed that in 1907 lacrosse in South Australia was much superior to that in Victoria, as well as in all the other states. South Australia had supplied 8 of the 12 players chosen in the Australian team which had played against Canada on the Melbourne Cricket Ground, as well as in the game against Canada in Adelaide. In the Interstate contests South Australia had rarely been beaten. The South Australian style of play was better largely because of the English style of play introduced by Professor William Bragg.

This laid emphasis on team-work, and made South Australia the leading exponent for many years. Individuals in Victoria were as skilful, as fast, as courageous and as enthusiastic as their opponents

in South Australia, but the superior South Australian team-work demonstrated that co-operation and team tactics always defeated unco-ordinated individual brilliance. After the visit of the Canadian team Victorians adopted the style of play displayed by the players from the home of lacrosse, without, as "Left Home" commented, the undesirable aspects of some of their play. The Canadians, coming from an environment where the game was largely professional, adopted the philosophy that allowed them to "beat the umpire", but such thinking gained no ground in Australia, which banned such practices as crosschecking and tripping, and other unsportsmanlike actions.

ABOUT PROFESSOR BRAGG

In 1885 he was awarded a first class honours in the mathematical tripos at Cambridge University, at the age of 23, Bragg was appointed (Sir Thomas) Elder Professor of Mathematics and Experimental Physics in the University of Adelaide, and started work there early in 1886. Being a skilled mathematician, at that time he had limited knowledge of physics, most of which was in the form of applied mathematics he had learnt at Trinity. Also at that time, there were only about a hundred students doing full courses at Adelaide, of whom less than a handful belonged to the science school, whose deficient teaching facilities Bragg improved by apprenticing himself to a firm of instrument makers. Bragg was an able and popular lecturer; he encouraged the formation of the student union, and the attendance, free of charge, of science teachers at his lectures.

He married in 1889 and their first son, William Lawrence, was born in North Adelaide in 1890 and Professor Bragg taught him at the University of Adelaide. He also played tennis and golf, and as a founding member of the North Adelaide and Adelaide University Lacrosse Clubs, contributed to the introduction of lacrosse to South Australia and was also the secretary of the Adelaide University Chess Association.

Bragg's interest in physics developed, particularly in the field of electromagnetism. In 1895 he was visited by Ernest Rutherford, en route from New Zealand to Cambridge; this was the commencement of a lifelong friendship. Bragg had a keen interest in the new discovery of Wilhelm Röntgen. On 29 May 1896 at Adelaide, Bragg demonstrated before a meeting of local doctors the application of "X-rays to reveal structures that were otherwise invisible". Samuel Barbour, senior chemist of F. H. Faulding & Co., an Adelaide pharmaceutical manufacturer, supplied the necessary apparatus in the form of a Crookes tube, a glass discharge tube. The tube had been obtained at Leeds, England, where Barbour visited the firm of Reynolds and Branson, a manufacturer of photographic and laboratory equipment. Barbour returned to Adelaide in April 1896. The tube was attached to an induction coil and a battery borrowed from Sir Charles Todd, Bragg's father-in-law. The induction coil was utilized to produce the electric spark necessary for Bragg and Barbour to "generate short bursts of X-rays". The audience was favorably impressed. Bragg availed himself as a test subject, in the manner of Röntgen and allowed an X-ray photograph to be taken of his hand. The image of the fingers in his hand revealed "an old injury to one of his fingers sustained when using the turnip chopping machine on his father's farm in Cumbria". He gave a public demonstration of Marconi's wireless in 1897.

The turning-point in Bragg's career came in 1904 when he gave the presidential address to section A of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science at Dunedin, New Zealand, on "Some Recent Advances in the Theory of the Ionization of Gases". This idea was followed up "in a brilliant series of researches" which, within three years, earned him a fellowship of the Royal Society of London. This paper was also the origin of his first book *Studies in Radioactivity* (1912). Soon after the delivery of his 1904 address, some radium bromide was made available to Bragg for experimentation. In December 1904 his paper "On the Absorption of α Rays and on the Classification of the α Rays from Radium" appeared in the *Philosophical Magazine*, and in the same issue a paper "On the Ionization Curves of Radium", written in collaboration with his student Richard Kleeman, also appeared. At the end of 1908 Bragg returned to England. During his 23 years in Australia "he had seen the number of students at the University of Adelaide almost quadruple, and had a full share in the development of its excellent science school."

Bragg and his family returned to England in 1908. From 1914, both father and son contributed to the war effort; W.H. Bragg was connected with submarine detection, at Aberdour on Forth and at Harwich, and returned to London in 1918 as a consultant to the admiralty.

In 1915 father and son were jointly awarded^[2] the Nobel Prize in Physics for their studies, using the X-ray spectrometer, of X-ray spectra, X-ray diffraction, and of crystal structure. Ten years later, their volume *X-Rays and Crystal Structure* (1915) had reached a fifth edition. Professor Bragg's second son Robert was killed at Gallipoli. Professor Bragg died in England in 1942.

The Canadian strategy had been much like that now commonly adopted in Australian Rules Football, and known as "The possession game". Set positions were of reduced significance. The game, once having gained possession of the ball, congealed itself into a phalanx of men close to one another, who retained possession of the ball by rapid and short passes between one another. They thus moved the ball forward until one player or another was in a position to throw for a goal. The increased effectiveness of the Victorian play resulted in their winning the carnival, having beaten the next team, South Australia by 11 goals to 2, the most decisive Victoria had ever scored over South Australia. Western Australia, whose style of play was similar to that of South Australia, came third.

The season of 1913 opened with an entry of 44 teams divided into 6 sections. The game having been introduced into Victoria by L.L. Mount in 1876, the Victorian Association was already preparing ambitious plans to celebrate the jubilee of the game in 1916, by which time they anticipated that there would be 100 teams entered in pennant competitions. Pioneers of the game such as Norcott, Beach, Shappere, House and others still maintained their interest in the sport. The association, always strongly amateur, had decided to enforce amateurism, and it was certain that professionals would not be tolerated by either the officials administering lacrosse or the clubs. The development of the sport was based on the interest being fostered among young players, especially from some of the schools such as Melbourne Grammar School and Brighton Grammar School. Criticism was levelled against the South Yarra club by "Left Attack" in "The Australasian" of 10 May 1913, the winners of the pennant in 1912, for failing to display the sportsmanship expected of "thoroughbreds" and amateurs. The censure was based on reports made by an important association official, Mr. W.J. Lampard, who had been in charge of the game between University and South Yarra. Retaining premierships was a laudable ambition for clubs, but not at the expense of sportsmanship such as adopting dubious practices and disputing decisions of the referee. "Left Attack" hoped that the association would act firmly on such occasions. Obviously, the price of keeping alive the ideals of amateurism was eternal vigilance.

He had cause to return to the subject on 24 May 1913. The newly established rule of the "free arm", he wrote, was not being observed. This, he diagnosed, was due to lax interpretation of the rule by referees. Ten years ago the use of the free arm to ward off an opponent's stick, or as a protection for his own crosse, was almost unknown, but gradually abuses of the situation crept in. It now led to unseemly displays of pushing, holding and scrimmaging, which had left too much of the roughness sometimes evident in recent years. It was regrettable that some of the worst offenders were found in senior ranks. It had become a growing evil, and the interstate conference recently held unanimously decided to adopt the present rule controlling the practice. Some players might find the rule irksome, but it is clear, and needs only firmness on the part of referees to make it a success.

Journalists commenting on lacrosse at this time seem to have been almost obsessed with the idea of amateurism. In this they were no doubt expressing the views of most sportsmen at that time. By the end of the twentieth century, when amateurism was a sham and a synonym for cynicism, this may all seem unreal. But amateurism was a very real issue in the first decade of the century. We have already seen the effect it had on the organisation of sport in schools. At that time amateurism was jealously guarded in international tennis, athletics and rowing. Administrators of lacrosse prided themselves on the amateur status of their sport. So "Left Attack" in the "Australasia" wrote on the 31st May 1913, "The game is being played at a high standard, and there is no doubt it is gaining ground, Each year one sees new clubs and the following is growing larger. While the sport is growing

it needs careful handling and control. It is in the development stages that dangers can creep in. The association's determination to keep the game amateur is bound to bear fruit, but there must be no half measures. We have seen football drift into the hands of the professionals, and the experience of that game should be valuable to lacrosse. Taken all round, there is no more attractive sport than lacrosse to watch. It must be kept clean, however, and this can only be done by capable referees, especially in the junior sections. Evil practices contracted in the lower grades, if unchecked, will affect the whole sport. "Left Attack" again stressed amateurism in his report the following week (7 June 1913) "Lacrosse players," he wrote, "On Saturday showed that amateurism stands for keenness, and despite the dreadful weather and ground conditions games were played with all the zest that usually attaches to them. There were no allowances for expenses or loss of time, no payment for soiled uniforms to be made up, but the players took the sport as they found it, and went into it wholeheartedly." The question of amateurism is usually misunderstood. Amateurism in its early days rose out of class distinction. Money came into it only as a later consideration. This is demonstrated by the list of occupations published by oarsmen and adopted by other amateur sportsmen of the various occupations which automatically disqualified a participant from being classed as an amateur. This class distinction was abhorrent to many athletes in Europe, America and Australia. The consequence was that the line of demarcation shifted to a basis of income or financial gain. Though the definition of amateurism evolved into a question of money amateur sport appealed mainly to the sort of sportsman who was traditionally attracted to the amateur ethos. These men were those following the learned professions, or engaged in the management of business or members of the armed services or the civil service, and, of course, the church. Such men prided themselves on their "sportsmanship", and they participated in their games and pastimes for the love of them, and, to a great extent, because proficiency in sports was a social requirement for their class. Money was not a consideration: they could afford to enjoy their chosen activities. There was, even in Australia before the 1914 war, an accepted superiority: men who supported amateur sport did not enter one another's properties through the tradesmen's entrance. But they were unanimous in seeing to it that "the root of all evil" did not insinuate its parasitic growths into their sport. So lacrosse, and other activities, were supported by a certain type of men, with their well established standards of conduct. As we shall see, this general social background was soon to have a profound influence on the development of their sport.

Note regarding social status and amateurism:

Extract for the Australasian, 18 June 1881, concerning Victorian Rowing Association's deliberations concerning amateurism:-

"In reference to the manual labour question, the sub-committee sees no reason to alter its present definition, but they beg to recommend that the following interpretation clause be added to the regatta regulations"-

A) The following are, for the purposes of the regatta regulation, manual labour employment's requiring physical strength: - bakers, blacksmiths, bookbinders, brickmakers, butchers, boat-builders, carpenters, carriers, carters, draymen, engineers (working), foundrymen, french polishers, house painters, labourers, lumpers, masons, plate-layers, packers, plasterers, paperhangers, porters, plumbers, quarrymen, sawyers, ship-builders, tannerymen, woolwashers, weavers, and other similar employments.

B) And the following employments are employments not requiring physical strength: Artists, barbers, barmen, bootmakers, clerks, composers, drapers, professional men, publicans, saddlers, shopmen, students, tailors, watchmakers, warehousemen and other similar employments.

a) If a man be included in either A or B lists, he is to be taken as a manual labour man.

b) In all cases of doubt the committee of the V.R.A. finally to decide.

- c) The usual employment of persons entering for the restricted races to be given at the time of entry.

As for the general progress of the game, it seemed to be advancing steadily in 1913. The pennant games were being played by an increasing number of participants in and around Melbourne. Country clubs were prospering. On the 14th July "Left Attack" spoke enthusiastically of the advancement of the game at Kyneton. In response to an invitation from the Carlton club, the Kyneton club sent two teams to play against Carlton. The country players, in spite of their limited opportunities to see the game played at the highest levels, gave Carlton lively opposition. Special mention was made of the contribution to lacrosse in Kyneton by Dr. J.H. Dowling who had recently joined the staff of the Kyneton Hospital.

Interstate lacrosse was showing the benefits of the carnival. On 15 July 1913 "Left Attack" reported that in Brisbane, Queensland had defeated New South Wales by a single goal. An encouraging feature was that a team of New South Wales school boys had travelled with the inter state team to compete with a team of school boys from Queensland. The Queensland boys won by 12 goals to 1. Evidently, schools in states other than Victoria were adopting the game, and would soon provide a stream of recruits to the senior clubs.

The selection of a Victorian team to play against South Australia was being undertaken, as reported on 26 July 1913. One of the qualifications required by the Victorian Lacrosse Association was that men chosen as interstate representatives should be men of unexceptional behaviour during their play. It would seem that perhaps some players whose skill might have brought them into consideration for selection were known to have transgressed in matters of acceptable behaviour. The association, in their determination to see that proper amateur standards should be maintained in lacrosse and that their sport should suffer no adverse criticism.

A cloud arose over the fixture in the shape of an outbreak of small-pox. To avoid any possible danger from this source to Victorian players, the association required that all probable players in the Victorian team should be vaccinated forthwith, so that the players would be fully recovered from their treatment before they departed for Adelaide. A by-product of this decree was that serious consideration had to be given to the postponement of that round of pennant matches, so many players being indisposed as a result of the vaccinations. Great interest was aroused at the prospect of the interstate game, South Australia vs Victoria. Victoria, having soundly beaten South Australia in the carnival the previous year, there was some confidence that the long established supremacy of South Australia had now come to an end. The South Australians were equally keen to demonstrate that they had in no way lost their dominance. There was no little disappointment at the Amateur Sports Club in Melbourne, where lacrosse enthusiasts had gathered to receive early news of the result, when they learned that South Australia had inflicted a crushing defeat over Victoria, having won by 16 goals to 1. It was reluctantly admitted in Victoria that the South Australians had won on their merits, and, as the report stated, "the home team was superior in every department. The South Australians were generous in their hospitality, and the Victorians brave in defeat. There was a solidarity for amateurism in both states. J. Mostyn Evans, presided over the smoke concert in the evening, and was reported to have said; "Two sports were absolutely self-supporting, lacrosse and rowing. It was impossible to get gate-money and... the men played for the love of the game." Mr. Lampard, the Victorian manager stated that he had been associated with lacrosse for 19 years. The relations between the various associations was the very best... the game was played by thoroughbred gentlemen..." It is evident from these comments that there were still strong social overtones in views held about amateurism.

The game was flourishing in the universities. An interstate carnival took place in Melbourne, when matches between Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide universities were played, in which Melbourne defeated Adelaide by 7 goals to 4, and Adelaide defeated Sydney. Melbourne won the overall championship thus retrieving a little of Victoria's reputation.

Even in Tasmania lacrosse was gaining popularity. On 6 September 1913. "The Australasian" reported a match between teams from Hobart and Launceston (ie South Tasmania vs North) which

provided a splendid game, the Moonah team (Hobart) winning the game by 3 goals to 2 and in doing so earned the state premiership.

The earliest recorded women's lacrosse club, the St Georges Ladies Lacrosse Club, was formed in 1913 in New South Wales, soon followed by a club at Manly.

1914, an ill-fated year for the world as it turned out to be, opened with all the confidence and pleasurable that the 1913 season had promised.

The pennant season began with players in all sections taking up the game with renewed enthusiasm. The report of 23 May emphasised that the Victorian Lacrosse Association was anxious to give every encouragement to young players. To this end they had organised a junior match to precede the interstate match against South Australia. They recognised that skill and enthusiasm developed among juniors would ensure a sufficient recruitment at senior levels. The pennant season proceeded with unabated keenness. There were minor blemishes. On 20 June it was reported that a complaint had been lodged with the association by the Hawthorn club alleging unduly rough play by the Deaf and Dumb club. The difficulties under which that club played were emphasised by the fact that their case had to be conducted by an interpreter. The result of the hearing was that two of the Deaf and Dumb players were suspended for two weeks.

In the country also the game was in a healthy state. Kyneton sent a team to Melbourne, and played a game against Williamstown at Fawkner Park, showing that this country club had maintained its enthusiasm. The Ballarat Lacrosse Club sent a team to Melbourne to play against a team from Carlton on the King's Birthday week-end, and they performed creditably against their more experienced opponents. Everything seemed to be going well. Preparations for the great game against South Australia had all been made. The team had been selected. Then the cataclysm which was to destroy civilisation as it was then known occurred. The pistol shot at Sarajevo echoed around the world, and the Great War broke out.

The effects on lacrosse in Victoria, indeed in the whole of Australia, were disastrous. On the 15 August "The Australasian" reported that the interstate match which had been scheduled to take place on that day would not be played. The South Australian association had sent a telegram to the Victorian Association stating that, because of the outbreak of the war, it would not send a team. The Victorian Association took the refusal to send a team badly. The notice was certainly short, and it was alleged that the South Australian association had defaulted because they were unable to master a team strong enough to win. The Victorian Association replied by accusing the South Australian Association of unsportsmanlike behaviour, and indicated, all too prophetically, that the South Australian decision would lead to the termination of all interstate matches. For the moment lacrosse enthusiasts in Victoria alleged that the cancellation because of the outbreak of the war was a mere pretext to cover the fact that the South Australian association did not wish to honour its obligations in sending a team to Victoria, and had cancelled for that reason.

There may have been some truth in the allegation that the South Australian association had difficulty in mustering a team. Possibly South Australian players were reluctant to leave their homes and businesses at such a precarious a time, and therefore preferred not to make the trip. While one may understand the sharing of the Victorian players, the intemperate nature of their reply was far from gracious.

The Victorian people may not have realised fully the international implications of the declaration of war. **Indeed the first shot of the Great War was fired at Port Phillip heads**, when the fort at Portsea fired a shell across the bows of a German ship which was making a dash to escape the inevitable seizure of German assets. We, in retrospect, many years after that war, can realise that there was far higher proportion of immigrants from Germany established in compact communities in South Australia than there were in Victoria. These people might have felt far less enthusiastic of supporting "to the last man and the last shilling" a war against the fatherland. Sabotage of shipping and railway lines was something to be considered. The outlook in South Australia was very different from that in Victoria. Probably the decision to cancel was more the result of war hysteria than any

reasoned argument, for it is difficult to see how the cancellation of an interstate lacrosse match could have any significant effect on Australian preparations for war. There can be little doubt that the South Australian decision arose from a sense of patriotism, and the Victorian reaction was unsympathetic and churlish.

Victoria, for the time being, adopted an attitude of "business as usual". The Victorian lacrosse team visited Tasmania as planned, defeating Launceston by 21 goals to 4 and Hobart by 23 goals to 1. Queensland and New South Wales went ahead with their interstate match, New South Wales being the winner on this occasion

By 1914 there were four women's clubs in N.S.W. and there was a competition in place.

From the first report in 1915 it was evident that war was beginning to exert an influence. The season opened on Saturday, 1st May, and a full round was played, but there were many new faces in the teams. "Left Attack" expressed the view that no other sport had contributed as proportionately largely to the Expeditionary Forces. There were volunteers from each section. Each contingent leaving Australia, he said, was taking with it a set of lacrosse sticks so that the men might have their athletic exercise. The camp team from Broadmeadows had done good work. "Let us hope," he continued, "that at the celebration of peace in Berlin, when Canadians and Australians march in together there may be an international lacrosse game between the two dependencies from overseas." This was the optimistic view generally held at the beginning of the war. It was a vast game, and the nation with the trust and bluest athletes would win. Lacrosse continued to be played with enthusiasm, and it does not seem that the beginning of 1915 revealed an awareness of the dreadful things that were to come. The "match of the day" reported on the 19th May was between University and Malvern-Caulfield. The game was marred by the encroachment on to the ground of officials and spectators. Lampard, refereeing the game, had no small difficulty in keeping it going, and there was much argument and bad temper. University controlled themselves the better, and won by 10 goals to 5.

But the progress of the war soon began to show their effects. On 17 August 1915, "Left Attack" stated: "Lacrosse has already done splendid work in sending men to join the various expeditionary forces. Victoria has done well in this respect, and is likely to do better. In a letter from a friend in Canada he says: "You would be delighted to see how athletes from here have answered the call. Our clubs are decimated, and it is a remarkable to think that nearly all the best players have gone. Lacrosse is now played by boys too young to enlist, and men who have too many responsibilities to let them join the colours. It is a pleasure to see the enthusiasm the men are showing. Lacrosse has stood the test well."

The same situation was becoming evident in Victoria. Men who took pride in their amateurism would be trained from their youth in the ideals of their times and generation. Most of their families still regarded England as "Home". They were men to whom "The Bugles of England" would call the -most appealingly. The hidden costs of amateurism were becoming evident. "Left Attack" wrote on 20 July 1915, "The lacrosse season is drawing to a close, and nearly the whole of the men playing are those who for one reason or another have not been able to enlist. This sport has certainly stood the test. So many lacrosse players have answered the call of Empire that clubs find it exceedingly difficult each week to put full teams into the field. Further enlistments during the recruiting campaign made their influence felt on Saturday's games, with the result that, in the senior section only one club, University, were able to put a full 12 into the field. The total number of lacrosseurs who have now volunteered is upwards of 260, representing between 50 and 60% of those eligible for service. The casualty list to date includes 12 killed and 19 wounded. T.A. Donaldson, who was at one time Hon Assistant Secretary to the Victorian Lacrosse Association, and a prominent member of the South Yarra club, and has for two years been residing in Ocean Island, arrived in Melbourne last week. He left Ocean Island last month for the express purpose of enlisting, and travelled 3,500 miles to do so. He volunteered as soon as he reached Melbourne, and was accepted. He goes into camp this week. It was implicitly accepted among amateur sportsmen (and indeed the community generally) that no man who was qualified to enlist could retain his self respect if he failed to do so.

The N.S.W. ladies competition was suspended in July 1915, presumably due to the outbreak of World War 1, with no further competition recorded after that date.

In 1916 the view with regard to being qualified to enlist became explicit. At the general meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, held at the Amateur Sports Club, and reported in "The Australasian" on 22 April 1916 under the heading "Sport and War", the following motion was proposed by Mr. W.B. House: "During the season 1916, and for the currency of the present European War, or any extension thereof, no person shall be allowed to take part in any matches arranged by the association if over the age of 21 years, unless such person has volunteered for active service with the Australian Expeditionary Forces, and has been rejected by the Defence Authorities, or unless, in the opinion of the sub-committee of the association to be appointed for the purpose, the circumstances of the person are sufficient for his failure to volunteer for active service, when such sub-committee shall give to such a person a certificate of permission to play for any period to be stated. This may on application be extended at the discretion of the sub-committee.

- (1) The sub-committee shall observe secrecy concerning the circumstances of every applicant for a certificate.
- (2) Every club entering a team or teams for competitions arranged by the association, shall supply with its nomination a list of all members proposed to compose such a team or teams, and shall state separately the names of proposed players who are over the age of 21 years, and state whether such have been rejected for active service with the Australian Expeditionary Forces.
- (3) Every person desiring a certificate under by-law (resolution 1) shall make application therefore to the sub-committee in writing, and shall in such application state his willingness to narrate his circumstances verbally to such sub-committee.

It was further resolved that no premiership games be arranged for the coming season, any games to be club contests only, and subject to the provisions of Mr House's resolution.

This now seems a severe and unnecessary intrusion into matters of conscience and privacy, particularly in view of the fact that the referendum on conscription had failed to gain a majority support. Feelings in 1916 were very different from those held today. Already the numbers of lacrosse players had been severely reduced. The social and political climate was such that any young man of military age who failed to volunteer was regarded with contempt, especially by women, and ostracized. The numbers of young men available to fill teams of the various lacrosse clubs was day to day growing smaller. The real decision before lacrosse administrators was whether the game should be played at all on any organised basis, or whether it should be suspended for the duration of the war, which was now seen as possibly several years. Many influential men held the view that the game should not be played. Mr Phillip Shappere, President of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, who was affectionately known as "the grand old man of lacrosse", resigned from his position on the ground that he was totally opposed to lacrosse being played while the war lasted. The lacrosse association, at a meeting reported in "The Leader", on the 10th June 1916, decided that the game should "live". The executive took the view that the war would not last forever, and they realised that, if lacrosse was taken off the sporting calendar, it might be difficult to build the game up again. With friendly matches being played under the auspices of the association in the meantime, continuity would be maintained, and an effective organisation would have been preserved. Mr House's motion really gave respectability to those men who still played lacrosse. The world now knew the point of view of the lacrosse association, and realised that any man who had been given permission to play had fulfilled his duties to his country. The executive committee at this meeting established a non-premiership rota of matches in three sections, the age limit being 20, except for those players who had given satisfactory reasons for not having enlisted. The game was thus saved from probable extinction, and little publicity was given to it for the next two years.

After the decision made by the Victorian Lacrosse Association to suspend pennant competitions, reported in the Australasian of 22 April 1916 no further reports appeared for two years. This hiatus was a critical time. Though the Association made such arrangements as it could to keep the sport

alive in Victoria, it remained to be seen whether the sport was moribund or merely hibernating. War raised more serious social and economic problems than mere sport, and the impact of these changes in mores and general civilisation meant that the future of the sport, as well as in many other activities could not be predicted with any certainty. The Second World War is alive in a few memories still. We have in our community a small and diminishing number of men and women who actually took part; and we may have more who, though unable to be actively engaged, lived through those times. The more thoughtful among us are still aghast at the fearful and abominable acts perpetrated in those years. But there are a very few now left among us who lived through the dark years of World War 1. At its conclusion, people could not believe that such a horrible catastrophe could ever be brought about by human beings, and, in a slogan-conscious world, it was dubbed, seriously though romantically as "the war to end wars". The philosophy of the war of attrition, as demonstrated in World War I was that if the combatant groups killed each other fast enough and for long enough, the side that had the greater numbers must emerge as victors. Individuals were no longer important. When a man put on his uniform he became nothing more than a number, a statistic in a horrible collation of statistics. To those whom he had left at home he remained a man he was still a father or a son or a brother, a husband, a fiance or a friend.

There are still among us some who remember, if we are courageous to do so, the casualty lists of those killed, or missing in action (ie presumed killed), or wounded, or maimed. We can, if we will, remember those who were reduced to intellectual or psychological ruin. Many of these statistics thus completely destroyed or reduced to physical incapacity had been men foremost in their various sports before the war and no sport, it was claimed, had been more lavish in its contribution to the destruction of its male population than lacrosse. Its administrators must have wondered whether there would be enough able bodied men left to re-establish the game at the level it had so laboriously achieved.

There were other imponderable conditions. The whole economy was fragile. Business that had been converted or developed for war requirements found that the demand for their services had ceased. Factories that had been supplying brass cartage cases had to turn their production over to providing lip-stick holders. They were left with large stocks of commodities for which there was no demand. Strict economy would be necessary, and bankruptcy imminent. Firms, no matter how much they might have wished to welcome back returned soldiers to their jobs, could not do so, the jobs no longer existed. The Government did what it could to deal with the situation. Soldier-settlement schemes were devised and implemented. In hindsight those who pass for wise among us believe that many such schemes were ill-judged and inefficiently put into practice. This may be necessary, but something had to be done, and that something almost always took the man away from the metropolis.

It was certain that many returned soldiers, who before the war had been enthusiastic members of their various clubs, would not be available to render services to their pre-war clubs. There was some ground for optimism. Four years is not an eternity. Lacrosseurs who had exchanged the crosse for the cannon would, if they were spared, still be able to play the game efficiently, and their love for the amateur game suggested that they would return to it with unabated enthusiasm, many lacrosseurs were professional men, and would remain in the metropolitan area, where the headquarters of the legal, medical, architectural, engineering and like professions would be situated.

The Lacrosse Association of Victoria no doubt regarded the 1919 season with some anxiety, but also with faith. The first lacrosse reports showed this attitude. "The Australasian" on 10 May 1919, reported that "in glorious weather, and with a feeling of relief from the strain of the last four years, lacrosseurs took the field on Saturday last. Nearly all the men engaged had been on active service, the remainder of the 21 teams engaged being juniors." During the dark years, the number of teams had fallen to fifteen. At the beginning of 1919 twenty-one teams were entered for pennant competition. It was confidently expected that when demobilisation was completed many more of the clubs which were in existence before the war would be re-established. On the first resumption of pennant play the following clubs competed - Adult Deaf and Dumb, Brighton Presbyterians, Canterbury, Coburg, Hawthorn, Malvern, Maribyrnong, South Yarra, University, Williamstown and Melbourne High School. Other clubs were in the process of re-forming, and were confident that as demobilisation continued they would have enough players to enter the competition the following year. These clubs were:- Carlton, Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, Melbourne Cricket Club, Caulfield, Essendon, Fitzroy, Kew, Kooyong, Sackville Street, and Wanderers. "It was good," wrote the lacrosse

correspondent," to see on Saturday many men who had acquitted themselves well on the battle-field, playing again with dash and vim in their old club colours."

An encouraging sign was that there was enthusiasm to revive inter-state contests. The Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Lacrosse Association had put a suggestion to the New South Wales association that a game should be arranged in Sydney between teams consisting mainly of returned soldiers. The proposition was warmly received. It appeared that interest in lacrosse was also evident in New South Wales. The war still occupied men's minds. A great encampment had been set up on the Melbourne Domain for returned soldiers awaiting demobilisation. The delay in returning soldiers to their civilian status was no doubt inevitable, but irksome. It was difficult to keep the men occupied, and the military authorities took every opportunity to provide diversion and interest. The selection of the team to visit New South Wales was nearly complete. To separate rival contenders a lacrosse match was organised in which the probable players selected for New South Wales, all returned men, would play against those deemed to be the next best. The game was reported in "The Australasian" on 23 August 1919, thus:- "The large attendance at the lacrosse match last Saturday, in which soldiers, their relatives and friends predominated, was extremely gratifying to the promoters of the fixture. Many old-time players were seen in the crowd at the Domain, and many more, who although not players were enthusiastic supporters of the game, It was the largest crowd to witness a lacrosse game for many years. All the spectators thoroughly enjoyed the match, and, apart from the personal interest many had as relatives of the players, there was a keen appreciation of a good game played with fine spirit. The ground was altogether unsuited for lacrosse, its roughness and hardness preventing a good display. It was difficult to pick up the ball from the ground, and players were obliged to exercise caution in running. This naturally hampered the play and frequently spoilt good work. The match ended with the selected team winning by 15 goals to 13."

As evidence of reviving interest in inter-state contest, the Adelaide University team arrived in Melbourne at the same time as this inter-state trial match. Their match against the Melbourne University took place on the Melbourne University Ground. This was the first interstate university match since the pre-war seasons. The day was fine. A good gathering of spectators watched the match. To mark the importance of the game, it was made a ladies day, afternoon tea being provided by the Melbourne University club. The game ended in a victory for Melbourne by 8 goals to 5.

Some of the misdemeanours of pre-war days also began to show up. On 12 July 1919, "Iroquois" noted that "as the season advances the number of spectators at the various matches becomes larger. This interest of the non-playing supporters of the game is, of course, strengthened by the weekly return from active service abroad of many former players. But on the 26th July he wrote: "It is regrettable, and altogether inexcusable, that a good game between Hawthorn and Malvern was spoilt by some spectators encroaching on the playing field, and indulging in adverse comments on the play. This is a very rare occurrence at lacrosse matches. While making due allowance for partisanship, it is none the less reprehensible, and should be discouraged." All in all, it appears that at the end of the 1919 lacrosse season the Victorian association could look forward to the future with confidence.

That the Victorians had not forgotten the key to their successes in pre war days was demonstrated by "Iroquois " notes in "The Australasian" of 24 April 1919. "The outstanding feature of Saturday's lacrosse matches," he wrote, "was the correct method of handling a team given by University's captain (A. Laughlin)". This fine centre player (a military cross winner, by the way) has always had the confidence of his men in his ability, and this confidence was splendidly manifested in the game against Brighton Presbyterians on the University oval. On several occasions during the game directions were given and instantly obeyed, and in immediate response lies all the difference between success and failure the reason for which was not apparent, but the result was a complete justification, and gave them the concerted action without which no lacrosse team can hope to achieve or maintain success. There were many fine displays of individual effort on both sides, but the combination of the university's team was too strong for their opponents.

On 16 August 1919 "The Australasian" reported that a return match, New South Wales v Queensland, had been played at the Brisbane Cricket Ground, in which Queensland won an exciting game by 4 goals to 3.

On 30 August 1919 "The Australasian" reported "the first interstate lacrosse match since 1914 was played in Sydney last Saturday. The fact that the Victorian team was composed entirely of men who have been on active service gave added interest to the game. Contrary to expectations, the New South Wales team beat the Victorian team by 5 goals, 13-8. This was the first time that a New South Wales interstate team has beaten a Victorian interstate team. A second match, played on the Monday, saw the Victorian team prove its superiority by winning 23 goals to 2. We should record the names of the Victorian players who took part in this first post-war interstate match. They were:- Downing, Calvert, Laughlin, Doyle (University) Watt, Dodgson, Rowden, Thomas (Hawthorn) Godkin, Stedman (Brighton Presbyterians) Heywood (Malvern) F. Johnson (Elsternwick). Good news came from other states.

In Adelaide lacrosse was also being restored to life. "The Australasian" of 13 September, 1919 reported that the South Australian premiership had been won by Sturt, which had defeated East Adelaide by 7 goals to 3.

The opening of the season of 1920 demonstrated clearly the wisdom of the war-time administrators of lacrosse in keeping in existence the organisational framework of the Victoria Lacrosse Association. Other states had evidently done the same thing, for the arrangement of interstate matches presupposes some sort of authority through which negotiations can be carried out. So far as Victoria was concerned, "Iroquois" wrote "The 1920 season of lacrosse matches starts today, with renewed interest and a revival of clubs whose players have not seen the field since 1914. Last season 13 clubs were represented, Hawthorn and Malvern having teams in each of the three sections, A, B, and C, University and Brighton Presbyterians teams in A and C, Adult Deaf and Dumb in A and B, Williamstown and South Yarra in B & C, Elsternwick had but one team in the senior section, Maribyrnong, Canterbury and Coburg one each in the middle division, while Box Hill High played in the junior grade. Nineteen clubs will be represented this season, the additional clubs being M.C.C., Kooyong, Wanderers, Caulfield and Middle Park. In the A Section there are 8 teams as opposed to 6 last season, This will mean that the teams must meet twice in the season home and home matches instead of three times. There will be five sections playing this year".

The draw for the five sections follows.

"Iroquois" continued - "The various club members have been practising assiduously. Some good practice matches have been played. Recruiting and coaching new men in the game have been enthusiastically taken up by the experienced players who wish to place their team in the foremost ranks in each division which they are entered. This enthusiasm promises well for the success of the favourite winter pastime and should ensure a strong interest in the game, and greatly increase the attendance at matches. The great need now is for referees, and it is to be hoped that the personal appeal made by T. Fulton is making a busy canvass of men who can discharge the duties. Appreciation must be expressed to the little band of veteran players who give every Saturday afternoon to refereeing the game, and are to be found at the appointed place in time..." The problems that the pre-war administration had solved were rising again, and the good sense of the Committee allied to the loyalty and enthusiasm of experienced players would no doubt again overcome these difficulties.

Later generations of lacrosseurs must be grateful that the Committee of the Victorian Lacrosse Association maintained the constructive approach which before the war had been so effective in propagating the game. The same forward-looking mentality must have also governed the associations of the other state. In 1920 the Inter-State Lacrosse Council revived the interstate carnival. It was to be conducted in Sydney. For this occasion four states accepted the invitation to take part, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. On 7 August "Iroquois" reported that the Victorian selectors would need to select the best team it could find to beat its old rival, South Australia.

No reports for the season of 1921 are available.

The first report for the season 1922 appearing in "The Australasian" of 13 May 1922 commented on the opening of the Victorian pennant season. The Hon. Secretary of the association, Mr. W.J. Lampard having resigned, the association appointed as his successor Mr. N. Balmer. The South Australian Lacrosse Association had accepted an invitation to send a team to Victoria in August. Lacrosse in Victoria was now facing a critical time. If support for the game was to continue to grow, recruitment must now be vigorous and successful. Demobilisation was now complete, and all the past players from the armed forces who were likely to do so, had rejoined their clubs. This season, 1922 saw only a small increase in the number of clubs, 16 having now reformed, and 29 teams were entered for the pennant competitions, in 5 sections. This meant that only three more clubs had come into existence since 1920. The increase was proportionally small. The time had come when either the game must make significant development or it must fall into a fatal decline. The first signs were encouraging. For the opening of the season, the weather was fine, encouraging a pleasing number of spectators to watch the games. Mr Cordner, a member of the Committee of the M.C.C. unfurled the pennant that the lacrosse section of that club had won the previous season. The pennant games then went on as they had been programmed without untoward incidents. Although the interstate game was still some way off, preparations had to be made. On 3 June 1922 "Iroquois" reported that the Victorian Lacrosse Association had appointed a selection committee consisting of Messrs H. Balmer, V. Steet and A. Laughlin. A team from the A section was to be selected to play an exhibition match against a team chosen from the junior sections on the King's Birthday week-end.

On 19 August, "Iroquois" reported that, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather conditions a large attendance gathered to watch the game. This was the first time Victoria had met South Australia in Melbourne since 1913. Mr. H.D. Ross, the Canadian Commissioner in Victoria, was among the spectators, accompanied by Mr. Blatchley, a former Canadian player. The Canadians showed great interest and pleasure in the play of the two teams.

. The presentation took the form of a gold watch to Mr Lampard, and a gold wristlet watch to Mrs. Lampard.

The number of players interested in the game maintained a steady but not spectacular increase. Thirty-four teams were entered for pennant competition, an increase of 5 over 1922. With the increasing number of players it was inevitable that there would be more incidents of friction between players and between clubs. To deal with such occasions, an alteration to the rules was made by which a committee was set up to hear complaints and protests. The committee appointed consisted of Messrs Beech, G. Webb and C. Davies. In 1923 the Caulfield club was promoted to the senior division. That club had won the premiership of the junior A, and also of the D division in 1922. The two pennants were unfurled by the president of the Caulfield club, Mr. N Murray at the opening match at the Caulfield ground, at which Caulfield was to play Malvern. The Brighton and the M.C.C. clubs would need to make some adjustments to the personnel of their teams because of the retirement of some of their veteran players. The University club had repealed its rule of restricting membership to undergraduates. The restriction had been made by the club because the conditions of interstate university matches allowed only undergraduates to play. The vacancies caused by the retirements would adequately be filled. "Iroquois" wrote of a letter received from Mr. W.J. Harley, the President of the Ontario Amateur Lacrosse Association. He had been captain of the Canadian team that had visited Australia in 1907, and he retained happy recollections of the visit. Mr Healy had written to the secretary of the Victorian Association, Mr. H. Balmer, mentioning the names of men then prominent in Australian lacrosse, with whom he had had the pleasure of renewing acquaintance during the war. The important part of his letter consisted of a strong suggestion that Australia should be represented at the Olympic Games to be held in Paris in 1924. He believed that Australians would give a good account of themselves in international competition. At that time lacrosse was not recognised in the list of official Olympic Games sports. This meant that any games played would be only exhibition matches. The various associations would therefore have to provide the funds to finance a team. As 14 or 15 men would be needed this would represent a heavy expenditure. Strong representation had been made by Canada to have the game included in the official contests, and if Australia gave support there was every probability that lacrosse would be officially included in the Olympic programme for

1928. He hoped that the Australian associations would give serious attention to sending a team to the 1928 Olympic Games, even if they could not see their way to sending one in 1924.

The pennant program proceeded successfully, but the time was approaching for the interstate carnival, which in 1923 was to be conducted in Brisbane.

The Victorian team, accompanied by the South Australian team, left for Brisbane on Monday 16 July.

The Brisbane carnival opened on Saturday, 21 July, when Victorian defeated New South Wales 12 goals to 2. South Australia defeated Queensland by 5 goals to 3, and South Australia defeated New South Wales by 8 goals to 2. The carnival ended on Saturday 28th. Queensland played New South Wales, and won by 8 goals to 3. The undefeated teams, South Australia and Victoria, then met to decide the Championship of Australia. This proved to be a close, low-scoring match, won by South Australia by 4 goals to 3.

The interstate competition cup was taken up with pride. The cup had originally been presented to the Victorian association by Andrew McHarg and the late Richard Garland. It had now become the trophy for competition between the states. It was reported on 28 August that a team from Bendigo had visited Melbourne to play against one of the Kooyong teams. The occasion was celebrated as a "Ladies Day", held at Trinity Grammar School. There was a large attendance, and the visitors found the people hospitable and the crowd inspiring. The Bendigo team won a close match, and earned praise for their promise, their enthusiasm and earnestness. The inter-university match between South Australia and Melbourne resulted in a close win for South Australia by 4 goals to 3. This was the fourteenth match between the two universities, of which Adelaide had won 8 and Melbourne 6. The final games of the 1923 season were reported in "The Australasian" on 15 September.

*At the conclusion of the grand final match a new and valuable trophy, presented by Captain Fearon of Williamstown, for competition in the D Section was presented to the D Grade team from Malvern, which became the first custodian of the trophy.

Captain Fearon's support of lacrosse in the junior section had been most encouraging. The Malvern club had strongly supported the endeavours of the lacrosse association to foster the game among schools. Their members had guaranteed a sum of £50 for the purchase of lacrosse sticks, which would be distributed among four schools in the district. The club also made coaching readily available. It was felt that a lively competition would be seen among the schools in the next season.

On 3 May 1924 "Iroquois" reported that the lacrosse season would open that day. He expressed optimism for a successful future. Thirty-six teams had been entered for the pennant competitions. One of the signs of healthy life in the sport was the number of juvenile recruits. Another was the greatly reduced number of transfers between clubs, which, he stated, indicated a desirable increase in club loyalty. The first team of the Adult Deaf and Dumb club had been promoted to the senior section. It should be remembered that many members of the clubs had been serving their clubs since before the war. It was inevitable that some retirements should take place, partly from the effects of time, and partly from the increasing responsibilities of business as the older members received the promotions they well deserved. Though the increase of the number of teams does not seem high, the fact that retirements were more than covered by new recruits suggests a healthy state of affairs, and that the post-war years, which might well have been critical, had in fact been safely negotiated. There was still interest in supporting the claims of lacrosse to be included in the official programme of the Olympic Games. At the annual meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association it had been unanimously agreed to send a letter of congratulation to Mr. C.A.M. West, secretary of the South Australian Association on his appointment as assistant manager of the Australian Olympic team, and manager of the Murray Bridge rowing crew.

The pennant season opened with enthusiasm. A high standard of play was evident. The efforts of the association to publicise the game and attract new recruits seemed to be successful. In addition to the large number of new players in the junior sections, a steady flow of enquiries for information about the game was coming in to the association, also concerning the availability of material. There seemed to be a strong possibility that suburbs at present not represented in the association would soon be taking part in the game. The interstate match against South Australia had been set down for

16 August. The inter-university match would take place at the same time. This meant that thought must be given to the selection of the interstate team. Preliminary contests to seek out the best players were played on 14 June.

The end of the 1924 season was fast approaching, and at the end of September only the final matches remained to be played. They were not without interest. In the semi-final of the C grade, a protest was lodged by the Williamstown club against their opponents, the Melbourne High School Old Boys. This protest caused the postponement of the D Section final.

An interesting prospect was opened up by the announcement that the South Australian association had accepted the offer of the British Columbia association to send a Canadian team to Australia. The proposal had been passed on to the other Australian state associations, and had been favourably received. The Victorian association had been asked to formulate and submit a scheme through which the visit could be financed.

For the first time in its history, the Victorian Lacrosse Association had decided to confer life-memberships on members whose long and distinguished service to the game merited such recognition. The honour was conferred on Messrs P. Shappere, T.L. Fulton and W.J. Lampard. As well as the proposal to invite a Canadian team to Australia, an invitation had been received from the North of England Lacrosse Association for an Australian team to visit the United Kingdom at the end of the 1926 season. It was recognised that such a visit would be a splendid stimulus to the game both in England and in Australia.

The domestic program in Victoria moved on orthodox lines. The M.C.C. lacrosse section came under criticism for entering only a senior team. There was a feeling that they were not doing enough to develop young players. The matter of providing referees for pennant matches had for a long time given concern to the administrators of the game. The Victorian Lacrosse Association had called for applications from men experienced in the game to accept paid positions as referees, but no interest had been shown. Results of games in New South Wales indicated that the game was making active progress in that state. The two leading teams were Dulwich Hill and Mossman. Other clubs mentioned were Petersham, Drummoyne, Hurstville and Eastern Suburbs. The report in the Australasian of 6 June 1925 indicated that the proposed visit of the British Columbian team was receiving official attention. Mr Howard Balmer, secretary of the Victorian Association, had made enquiries concerning the quality of the team which might visit Australia. If satisfactory financial arrangements could be made, the Canadian team would visit Australia at the end of the 1926 season. Mr Balmer revealed that the team would be composed of players from the Westminster and British Columbia districts of Western Canada. This region had held the lacrosse championships of Canada almost exclusively for the last twenty years. They held both the professional and the amateur titles. The game, a summer pastime in Canada, was taken seriously by New Westminster citizens, and promising players were trained most thoroughly. It was evident that if the Canadians sent their best, Australians would be thoroughly tested in the skills of the game. The experience of playing against a good Canadian side would provide stimulating lessons in techniques and tactics, as had the previous Canadian visit.

The visit of an Australian team to England was also being carefully considered. There were then strong emotional ties at that time between England and Australia, and matches against what was still thought of as the Mother Country. If the enthusiasm generated for such games at cricket were any criterion, the visit of a lacrosse would be well supported. There was no doubt that the experience of playing against teams from Great Britain, as well as for other British dominions, would have a beneficial influence on the game, as well as on the Commonwealth as a whole. However, these considerations were in the future, and in the meantime the game must go on. Enthusiasts were eagerly looking forward to the interstate match between South Australia. A keen sense of rivalry had been developed between the two states, and the South Australians were eager to avenge their defeat of the previous year. There was commendable enthusiasm to encourage the game in country districts. The Caulfield club would visit Warburton during the King's Birthday week-end to play an exhibition match, and Coburg planned to send a team to Nagambie to play a match against the local team. In the domestic competitions in Victoria the need to resolve the difficulties with refereeing was becoming

more pressing. The report in *The Australasian* of 20 May 1925 stated that three players in the junior division had been seriously injured. The wild use of sticks, it was stated, should be discouraged. Offenders, after due warning, should be suspended from active play. The Adult Deaf and Dumb was criticised for its rough play, one of their players having been sent off the field for infringements of the rough play rules. Early in the third quarter a Malvern defender was also put off the field for the rest of the game owing to his hasty resentment of the repetition and continuance of the wild play of his opponent. The report in *The Australasian* of 4 July stated that for the first time, paid referees were employed for pennant games in Victoria. The permit committee met the enrolled candidates, and gave them an opportunity to show their skill. The new system will be watched carefully. Those loyal players who, up to this time, had given honorary service signified their willingness to do so voluntarily. We must keep in mind that no doubt the traditionally strong loyalty of lacrosse players to the amateur cause may have aroused some misgivings about employing professional referees. That there was need for an improvement in the control of the game was demonstrated when the Hawthorn player, Bruce Hallows, had his collar-bone broken. He had just opened a medical practice in Ormond, and would miss the rest of the season. Frank Johnston, of the M.C.C., would also miss the rest of the season, the result of a dislocated shoulder. On 14 July 1925 *The Australasian* again reported incidents which emphasised the need for strict and effective refereeing. A great deal of rough play took place at Blackburn Park, when the Adult Deaf and Dumb played against Malvern. It was felt that breaches of the rules concerning fair play were becoming far too frequent.

A visit of an American fleet to the Commonwealth was soon to be made. The Americans had issued a challenge to play local teams at any game played in Australia. Though lacrosse was originally a Canadian game, with its largest support in that Dominion, interest in lacrosse had greatly increased in the U.S.A. It was felt that an exhibition game against the American fleet could be easily arranged. To obtain a suitable venue, pressure was brought to bear on the Trustees of the Amateur Sports Ground to grant the Victorian Lacrosse Association the use of the ground for the proposed game against the Americans. The game was advancing in the other states. The South Australian Association was interested in the steps the Victorian association was taking to meet the need for effective refereeing. They believed that employing professional umpires would improve the game. The fact that an official referee is in charge would lead to an improvement in the game. It also gives a uniformity of interpretation of the rules. The South Australian association had a panel of voluntary umpires, who officiated in A grade matches, and in some B grade games. The feeling in South Australia was that payment of officials in charge of games was the correct solution. In the other states the game was flourishing. South Australia was then in the process of arranging a series of games against Western Australia. At the same time as the first team from South Australia visited Melbourne for their traditional contest, a second team visited Western Australia. The games were keenly contested, the South Australians having been defeated by the Iroquois club at Midland Junction by 10 goals to 3. Against a Western Australian team at Claremont they were defeated by 14 goals to 3, and their third game, played at Subiaco, ended in a draw with 5 goals each. It was evident that the game was being played at a high standard in Western Australia, and that they appreciated the visits of teams from other states of the Commonwealth.

The eagerly anticipated match between Victoria and South Australia took place on 22 August 1925. Other associations had gone to great trouble to ensure that the best team they could muster was chosen for the match. The Victorian team consisted of Ellis (goals): Healey (point): Lampard (coverpoint): Watt (3rd man): Dodgshun and Callister (defence): A. McIndoe (centre); Trainor and Fulton (attack); Wrixon (3rd Home); Brierley (2nd Home): Beattie (1st home): emergencies, Wright and Read. The South Australian team consisted of C.J. Lee (goal); K. Brook (point); N. Tonkin (coverpoint): C. Boyce (3rd man); A. Smith, W. Haribson (defence wings); W. Kestel (centre); J. Glover and M. Thompson (attack wings); N. Noal (3rd home); G. White (2nd home); A. Tonkin (1st home): emergencies, W.J. Clayton (forward) H. Emerson (back).

A programme of social activities was organised to give hospitality to the visitors. The South Australian team arrived on the Thursday morning. In the afternoon they practised on the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and in the evening they were entertained at a theatre party. On the Friday morning they witnessed the fire-brigade's demonstration at the Eastern Hill Fire Station, and were afterwards given an official reception at the Amateur Sports Club. On the Saturday evening the visitors were entertained

as the guests of the Victorian Lacrosse Association at a Smoke Night at the Austral Salon, 231 Elizabeth Street. The Sunday would be taken up with a motor drive to Nathania Springs. Those were expansive days, and it took no small stamina to survive the festivities, as well as what everyone believed would be a close contest. Unfortunately, bad weather spoilt the game as a spectacle. Both teams showed skill in overcoming the slippery conditions. The South Australian team had been weakened by injuries to key players in the preliminary matches in their own state. Further injuries during the game prevented the South Australians from revealing their best form. W. Noal, their goal-keeper, early in the first quarter suffered a dislocated shoulder. The game ended in a win for Victoria by 6 goals to 4. Thus ended the 27th game between Victoria and South Australia, of which the first had been played in 1888. South Australia had won 17 of them and Victoria 9. One match (1910) ended in a draw. In spite of the bad weather there was a large attendance of supporters of the game. Among them were many old-time and recent past players in the crowd. The manager of the visiting teams was there, Mr H. Rule, and one of the South Australian selectors, Mr. L. Parsons. The Victorian spectators included J.G. Latham, K.C. M.H.R., J. Delves, J. Devine, N. and G. Bathelor, A. McHenry, W. House, G. Beach, F. Smyth, A. Box, J. Schope, W. and A. Lampard, D. Bower, V. Steet, R. Monroe, H. Ralph, G. Webb, Mr. Jones, A. Fulton (Snr), C. Gibbs, Dr. Walter Russell. The hard-worked secretary was busy with his many duties. Gordon Kishoern refereed the game in an admirable manner.

The season of 1925 had been successful in many ways, not the least of which was the desire expressed by the Western Australian Association to take part in the carnival to be held in Adelaide in 1926.

The 1926 season opened promisingly in Victoria. It was reported that 49 teams had been entered for pennant competition. As well as an increase in numbers improvement in skill was to be observed among players in the junior sections. With the carnival to be held in Adelaide, there was an inducement for players to show their best form. The proposal sent by Adelaide that Victoria should send a junior as well as a senior team had been approved. The Adelaide association had offered to provide accommodation in the homes of lacrosse supporters in Adelaide. Clubs reported high enthusiasm among senior and junior players. The game was being taken up by more schools. The High School Sports Association would enter five teams in a mid-week competition, and several senior players had offered their services as coaches. The first report on lacrosse in the Australasian announced the death on 19 April of the death of one of the great men of lacrosse, and of amateur sport in general, Mr. Phillip Shappere. His participation in the game had begun in 1877, when he played with the Bohemians. He became a member of the executive in 1892, and in 1895 succeeded Mr. W. J. Mountain as President, a position he held until the Great War. He had "faced off" the ball in the first international match against Canada, on the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 27 July 1907. The match had been refereed by Mr. J. G. Latham, K.C. When Phillip Shappere had been President of the Association he was distinguished for his wholehearted and untiring interest in furthering the progress of the game. During his long term office he became personally known to many players in the various states. One of the first functions held to welcome players from visiting states was always a welcome held at his home. He took a lively interest in all branches of amateur sport, and was a life-member of the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association. He was born in Ballarat in 1854. Reports of pennant matches appeared regularly in the Australasian and included information about the progress of the game in the neighbouring states, where enthusiasm appeared to be undiminished. On 5 June 1926 an official of the Western Australian association was at that time visiting Melbourne, and that he hoped to see as much of lacrosse, its players and the members of the Victorian administration as he could. He had seen games between the University and Williamstown, and between Malvern and Caulfield. He was particularly interested to see what the administration was doing to encourage the game at junior levels. He was much impressed by the contributions to junior lacrosse made by such men as G. Beech, of the Brighton juniors, Captain Fearon, of Williamstown, G. Brown and P. Shappere of Caulfield, and many others. He would have constructive ideas to pass on when he returned to Western Australia. The Australasian printed an interesting letter received from Mr. Alex E. Page. 318 West Street, New York, dated April 21, and addressed to the Sporting Editor of the Australasian. Mr Page had read with great interest an article on R.R. Sholl, a Rhodes Scholar, whom he had recently met at a lacrosse game between a team from the Oxford and Cambridge Universities and the Crescent Athletic Club in New York. The universities had not achieved outstanding success, which

rather surprised Mr. Page, who did not rate the standard of the game played in New York very highly. He felt that the English attack was weak, and easily put off by rough play. Watching the game, he had realised how important it was to a good exhibition of lacrosse to insist on a rigid enforcement of the rules. He felt that this was one of the most important factors contributing to the success of the game in Australia. He stated that Canadians now disowned lacrosse as being their national game on account of the roughness it engendered. He felt that the standard of the play shown in the game in New York would perhaps be equal to club play in Melbourne, but far inferior to interstate play. There had, Mr Page stated, been a considerable falling-off in support for the game in Canada, largely because of its roughness, but a strong effort was now being made to restore it to its traditional place in Canadian summer sports. At a meeting of the Lacrosse Association of Ontario unanimous support was given to a dominion wide campaign to foster the game and especially to encourage school-boys to take it up.

Lacrosse, Mr Page stated, was making rapid progress in the United States. All the leading colleges included it among their sports. A Buffalo (N.Y.) club had gained admittance to Ontario Lacrosse Association, whose boundaries had been widened to permit the inclusion of the Buffalo club. Mr Page deplored the tendency to Americanise the game, by putting in substitutes at will, and even fielding an entirely different team during the second half. He referred to a series of articles contributed to the Melbourne Argus by Mr Sholl, under the heading of "Glimpses of America".

This article deserved close inspection. It revealed some of the difficulties that might arise in arranging a tour of Australia by a team from Canada. The big event of 1926 was the lacrosse carnival. Evidence of the nationwide resurgence as a major sport in Australia lies in the fact that in 1926 all the mainland states were to take part.

Victoria was pleased to have the bye on the first day of the carnival, for this reduced the time its representatives must be away from home by two days. The teams from the other states were expected to arrive in Adelaide on 12 August, when the Lord Mayor Wallace Bruce, would give a civic reception to the interstate representatives. Arrangements were being made for a Palais night, motor trips, and a Smoke Social at the Arcadia Cafe, which would mark the end of the carnival. In the meantime, the processes for selecting a team to represent Victoria had been going on. The selectors first chose thirty players from whom the final choice would be made.

The carnival proceeded successfully, leaving two unbeaten teams for the last match, South Australia and Victoria. It was a fine exhibition of fast, lacrosse, South Australia eventually winning by 12 goals to 8. The results of the carnival were that South Australia won 4 matches, Victoria 3, New South Wales 2, Western Australia 1 and Queensland 0.

The Triennial Conference of state associations took place during the carnival. The proposal to form a federal governing body was discussed and passed. Messrs Schafe, Fearn and Balmer, the Victorian representatives, were appointed as a sub-committee to draw up a constitution. It was felt that appointing delegates from one state would facilitate the work of the sub-committee. At the monthly meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association the minutes of the Triennial Conference were read by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. Balmer. The proposed alterations to the rules were read, and decision regarding their acceptance was deferred to the next meeting.

At the triennial conference support was given by all states to the proposal to invite a Canadian team to visit Australia. The estimated cost was £4,500. This represented a contribution of £3 from every player in Australia. The South Australian and the Victorians were prepared each to guarantee £1,200. Western Australia considered the time to be inopportune, and suggested that 1932 would be a better time, and their representatives refrained from voting. However the council decided to proceed with the arrangements. The proposal to invite an English team was not supported.

The captain of the Western Australian team, Mr. C.E.M. Hickey, recommended to the newly formed federal council that the next carnival, in 1929, should be held in Perth during the centenary celebrations of that city.

The Victorian Lacrosse Association was aware that the spirit of traditional amateurism was becoming debased by the standards of professionalism. At their final meeting for 1926 the standards of general conduct to be seen in lacrosse left much to be desired. It was felt that the attitude of winning at all costs should be discouraged, in a game that provided itself on its strict amateurism. The association tried to remedy the situation by introducing some new rules. It adopted a rule that if a player hit his opponent with his stick on the head, whether intentionally or by accident, he should be put out of the game for a time. The application of this rule, it was felt, would prevent stick-swiping and wild checking. Disapproval was expressed at the use of foul or profane language, either on the field or in the dressing-room, was felt to be unworthy of amateur sport. It was observed that the referee had no power to enforce the beginning or the resumption of play at the proper time. It was proposed to remedy this by a rule instructing referees to call the time for the beginning or the resumption of play, and, failing the appearance of the centre players in their position, he should bounce the ball and start the game. These propositions were referred to the annual meeting.

The first report on lacrosse for 1927 in the Australasian appeared on 7 May. There had been no significant increase in the number of players, 44 teams having been entered in the senior sections. The South Australian association had been invited to send a team to Victoria, so that the now long established tradition of interstate games could be continued. The invitation had been accepted, the proposed date being the 13th August and the venue the Albert Ground. The Western Australian Association had invited a team from Victoria to visit Western Australia during the season. The invitation was regarded favourably, but the details had to be arranged.

In Western Australia, the association, following the example of Victoria, was trying to have lacrosse established in schools, and a number of sticks had been bought and made available to the boys.

The Western Australian association was conscious of the need to begin organising the interstate carnival which they hoped to stage during the celebrations for the centenary of Perth in 1929. A fund had been opened and all the clubs were contributing.

The draft constitution for the Australian Council had been prepared by the Victorian delegates, and copies had been sent to the mainland states for their consideration. At this stage it would seem that interest in lacrosse in Tasmania had declined.

The Victorian committee had been active in trying to improve the efficiency with which pennant games were conducted. A system of numbering players had been instituted. This would make identification of players by referees more easy. The provision for an adequate bell for intimating the end of quarters was also required of all senior clubs.

The Committee had for some time been unhappy about the deterioration of the standard of sportsmanship and conduct shown by some players. The decision to employ paid umpires had been taken, in spite of opposition, such a move being considered contrary to the spirit of amateurism, the amateur status than being held in high respect. To overcome the danger of lacrosse referees being regarded as professional sportsmen, the payment to referees was regarded as expenses: which indeed it might well have been, the remuneration being only twelve shillings a match, i.e. a contribution of sixpence a player. This small remuneration seems to have influenced a number of past players to accept the responsibility of refereeing senior games. Probably the official accreditation as an official referee attracted more past players to refereeing than the actual cash. Many loyal lacrosseurs still volunteered to act in an official capacity. However, the committee felt that in the interests of uniformity of interpretation it would be wise to provide a paper indicating how a referee should control a game. This valuable document was prepared by Mr. Gordon Watts, chairman of the permit committee. Its advice is still pertinent to the general good of lacrosse. The message was as follows:

HINT FOR REFEREES

Preliminary duties: Be on the ground by 2.45 pm. Wear a white uniform. Inspect the ground, boundaries, nets, goal crease and the centre circle. Inspect the boots and racquets of each team. See that two white balls are provided, regulation size. Inquire if goal umpires and time-keepers have been appointed. A ball must be

provided by the home team; if not, report on the referee's card. Keep aloof from the teams. It is undesirable to mix with either club. Do not forget your whistle and avoid over blowing it. Endeavour to engender a good spirit between the teams during the course of the game. See that every player has a number on his back, and report any irregularity. All players must wear the uniform of their team. Use every effort to start matches on time--3 o'clock is the time for starting with an allowance of ten minutes for starting. The time of starting must be entered on the referee's card.

The Play:

Take complete charge of the game. Be firm but not autocratic. Civility is a wonderful smoother. Do not argue with players. If asked for a reason for a decision give the reason very briefly. You may commit errors but that is part of your experience. Give your decision in a decided manner with honesty. If you are deputed to referee a match in which a team is the one with which you used to play, do not give harsh decisions against such a team in order to show you are not favouring them. Neutrality must be the watchword of a referee. In your interpretation of a rule, use common sense, eg. you may sometimes penalise a team which should have an advantage because of a foul, by pulling up the game. Check rough play or foul tactics from the beginning, otherwise the game may develop beyond your control. Do not be nervous about ordering a player off for a term for a flagrant breach of the rules. Be keen about checking wild use of the racquet. Keep up with the game - this means keeping in training. Do not tolerate profane language. Pay particular attention to the centre circle when a "draw-off" takes place. The circle must be free of players until the ball is over the line. Be alert when the ball is in the goal crease. Caution a player who appeals for fouls on trivial grounds. If he persists you have the power to order him off the field. When a ball goes out of bounds and there is some distance -- say ten feet -- between the players, the player who is nearer the ball shall obtain possession, and the whistle blown off "play on". When a dispute arises which is not provided for in the rules, the referee shall, at the time, decide the point at issue. Give this decision decisively. Where a player is injured, immediately stop play and whistle "time-off". Players sometime report to "pointing". Be alert to these dodges.

General:

Referee's card must be in the hands of the secretary by Tuesday (midday) following the match. Information regarding the play is desirable. Do not be afraid of reporting a player, but be careful to take the number of the offender. Care must be taken in making such reports that the full details of a definite charge are given. Make a definite charge, but avoid trivial offences, and be certain of your facts. Have the ambition of being a referee for the Senior A. If you fail to keep an appointment the Association will take a serious view of the case unless a very good reason is offered. The V.L.A. should be notified of any inability to take charge of a match not later than Friday (midday). See that you get your expenses at the half-time interval, or, in the case of the lower sections, from the Hon. secretary of the V.L.A. The captains should make the settlement with you. The Association cannot study the rules for you. Study them very carefully, and refer any point that is not clear for discussion at the referees' meeting or the permit committee."

The report in the Australasian on 28 May 1927 included the information that the Hon. secretary of the Western Australian Association had been a spectator at the match between Malvern and the M.C.C. He stated that interest in lacrosse was increasing in Western Australia. It had been decided at the meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association on the previous Monday evening to accept the invitation of the Western Australian Association to send a team to that state. There were problems. It would be expensive to send a team, and the players would need to be absent from their homes and businesses for several days, but the Committee was confident that the problems could be solved. On 9 July The Australasian reported that the Western Australians were keen to encourage the visit to that

state of a Victorian team, and had set aside £75 to help meet the expenses of the event. The matter of inviting a team from Canada to visit Australia was still regarded in Australia as highly desirable. A letter received by Mr Howard Balmer, Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Association, from the President of the Canadian Amateur Lacrosse Association was published in the Australasian of 9 July, and was read with interest by lacrosseurs in Victoria. It stated that the first series of games for the Canadian championships and the Mann Cup was conducted last Autumn. Four provinces - Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia were represented. The Dominion championship was won by the Weston (Ontario) team. The final this year was to be played at Vancouver in September, and in addition to the four provinces, Saskatchewan would probably be represented, and two districts from Ottawa. There are more than 100 clubs registered in Ontario, the stronghold of lacrosse in Canada. Thunder Bay district, at the head of Lake Superior, has six teams. Winnipeg is the main centre for the game in Manitoba, where there are three senior teams and 20 minor leagues, and a school league of 30 teams. Saskatchewan is taking a lively interest in the game, and Alberta, Calgary and Edmonton had school leagues in addition to the senior teams. British Columbia, Vancouver, New Westminster, Richmond and Victoria all had senior teams. The championship of the last named was won by Ocean Falls, a paper-mill town on the coast. The Canadians were energetic in introducing the game into the schools, and are building well for future progress. A Hamilton/Quebec representative was instrumental in distributing more than 1000 sticks this sorting to boys in Montreal. The Canadian correspondent referred to lacrosse being included in the programme for the 1928 Olympic Games, where teams representing England, Canada and the United States would compete. This would be a great step forward, and a splendid advertisement for the game. It seemed evident that it would be feasible to invite a Canadian amateur team. Such a tour would be of the greatest benefit to lacrosse in Australia. On 20 July the eagerly awaited game between South Australia and Victoria was described in The Australasian. The Albert Ground being unavailable, the match was played on the Malvern Cricket Ground, before a gathering of 1500 spectators. They were treated to a fast and skilful exhibition of lacrosse, the close match being won by Victoria by 8 goals to 5. The first match between South Australia and Victoria had been played in 1888 on the old East Melbourne ground. The contest became an annual fixture in 1896. There was an interruption during the Great War, but the games were resumed in 1920. One of the most interested spectators at the game in 1927 was Mr. J. Baty, the Victorian goal-keeper in the historic game in 1888.

The first reports of the season, starting on 12 May contained little other than comments on the opening matches, but an extensive programme of interstate games had been drawn up. The first of these consisted of a carnival to be held in Sydney, in which Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland would be represented. This was reported on 15 June. The team selected to represent Victoria met at the Melbourne Cricket Ground where they chose Vincent Healy as the manager and captain of the team. The programme was: N.S.W. v Q, 1.30pm., (Sat 16 June), Vic v Q (18 June).

Hospitality had been arranged in the form of a trip to Bulli Pass on the Sunday, and a theatre party on the Monday evening. A second match was played against N.S.W. on Wednesday, 20 June. The results were: Vic d. NSW 11-5; Q. d NSW (2) 13-4; Vic d NSW (2) 12-2; Vic d Q 15-4. Thus. Victoria having won all its matches won the carnival.

The Queensland association had also invited a team from Victoria to visit that state, and, to show the interest in lacrosse in that state had offered £60 to help to defray the expense. The executive of the Victorian association circularised the clubs inviting nominations from members willing to make the trip to Queensland, making it clear that players must pay their own expenses exceeding the £60 offered by the Queensland association. Sufficient players offered their services to make up a good team. This was by no means the best team that could have been chosen to represent Victoria, but it enabled two good games to be played, and stimulated enthusiasm for the game in Queensland. The Victorians lost the first of the two games 3-6, but won the second 8-2.

In addition to these interstate games the annual match against their old rivals from South Australia was played in Adelaide. This match was won by Victoria, after a close contest 18-17.

These commitments showed that the Victorian association was keen to do all it could to spread the game throughout the Commonwealth. Providing uniforms for players in interstate games entailed no small expenditure.

Little prominence was given to reports of games played in country centres in Victoria, but at least in some districts it was progressing. On 23 June 1928 The Australasian reported matches played in the Ballarat association, which comprised four teams in that district. Administering lacrosse in Victoria was not without its problems. Perhaps the most pressing of these was the maintenance of a proper attitude towards the ethics of the game. Lacrosse was strictly amateur in its organisation and administration. Amateur ethics were taken for granted when it was a game played by relatively few men drawn from a similar standing in society, but, as it spread, it began to attract players from a very different background. In the beginning of amateurism, games and contests were exercises for men drawn from the professions. They were supported by the Governor of the State, by the Lieutenant Governor, and conducted by well-to-do men who could afford their pastimes. The spread of the game coincided with the changing view of amateurism, which regarded the distinction between amateurs and professionals to be solely one of monetary interest. It was inevitable that in all sports this change of definition should also bring about some change in ethics. To illustrate the approach to amateurism we may note that amateur rowing in Victoria to clarify the position of amateurs drew up a list of occupations which might be regarded as amateur and others that could not be admitted into amateur ranks. The early lacrosse players came from the classes nominated by the rowing authorities as inherently amateur. This was not a matter of snobbishness or contempt but one of men who were interested in lacrosse playing the game with their friends, naturally others of the same social group. In cricket, jibes are levelled against Dr. W.G. Grace, and other "amateurs", regarding the amount of expenses he required before consenting to join a touring party. Such jibes are anachronistic. Dr. Grace and his friends had a certain standing to maintain. It was much more expensive way of life than that of a man who came from the "professional" classes. In fact, he had no compunction about taking part in contests for which money was the reward. That did not affect his "amateur" standing. These comments may be regarded as irrelevant to the history of lacrosse, but the gradual shift of emphasis in amateurism meant that a quite different type of person played the game. With the rapid growth of lacrosse, men from very different social backgrounds came into it. Many had been nurtured in the traditions of football, with its acceptance of violence and its determination to win at all costs. Thus, by 1928, more and more occasions were being reported where some members of some clubs resorted to violence in breach of the rules. It was politic perhaps to lay the blame on a few individuals rather than on clubs; but clubs which continued to select players who used unfair tactics must accept some of the criticism. The minutes of the Executive Committee held on 12 June 1928 refer to a letter sent by the Malvern club reported a disturbance created by members or supporters of the Adult Deaf and Dumb at the Malvern Cricket Ground. The nature of the disturbance is not stated either in the minutes or the report in the newspapers, but it must have been serious. The matter was pursued at a following meeting of the executive so that they could allocate blame and ascertain what steps were necessary. The result was that the Adult Deaf and Dumb Club was suspended for the remainder of the season, but milder influence prevailed and the suspension was reduced to two weeks. The President and the Secretary of the Malvern club were instructed to meet the Town Clerk of the City of Malvern and explain to him that the association had taken steps regarding the incident. A letter was sent to all clubs indicating that any such behaviour would not be tolerated, and that the Committee would deal seriously with any similar cases reported.

The Adult Deaf and Dumb club might be regarded as a special case. The very nature of the disability of the members tended to make them emotionally explosive.

But the Adult Deaf and Dumb club was by no means the only one whose members went beyond the accepted mores of amateur lacrosse. At the Executive Meeting on 27 August 1928 G. Sayers, a Williamstown player, was charged with having struck Watson of Coburg. On being found guilty he was ordered to stand down until the end of June 1929. Other Williamstown players were found guilty of misdemeanours, which led to the referee's terminating the game. They were reprimanded, but, as first offenders, they were not further disciplined. By this we may conclude that Sayers was not a first offender, and that the Williamstown club selected him in spite of his behaviour. The Committee decided that if the result had any effect on the finals, the points should be awarded to Coburg. The

Committee thought that, to some extent at least, an imperfect understanding of the rules might have led to friction between players. They therefore appointed a sub-committee to draw up a definition of the rules as set down in the rules of the Victorian Lacrosse Association so that all players and referees should have a uniform interpretation

With the increase in the number of players participating in lacrosse, a movement towards reorganising the game arose. Cricket and football in the metropolitan area had long been organised on a district basis. This gave teams a local following and loyalty which did much to stimulate interest in the performances of the clubs. It also encouraged local councils to support the teams in practical ways.

In 1928, although many teams had suburban names, the players might be drawn from anywhere at all. There was strong feeling that lacrosse would benefit from a similar organisation. At the Committee meeting on 28 May 1928 it was decided to set up a sub-committee to enquire into the proposition, and to devise a scheme which would lead to the desired reorganisation. The sub-committee appointed consisted of Messrs Stubbins, Webb, Watson, Beatty and Beagley, and the Hon. Secretary. They met and drew up a scheme which came before the committee at its meeting on 29 June, 1928

The opening of the 1929 season indicated that lacrosse now was a major sport in Victoria. There were 63 teams entered for the pennant competition, compared with 52 in 1928. The number of registered players was 1100, as against 900 for the previous season. A sport in which the active players reach this amount is worthy of consideration. In addition to registered players there is a large group of past players still interested in the game and in the welfare of their clubs, and there are many club officials and general supporters. A pleasing aspect of the progress of the game was the increasing number of young players being brought into the game. There was a competition among the high schools, instigated by the Melbourne High School, and the Melbourne Technical Schools Sports Union conducted a mid week competition. Over 250 boys were now playing mid-week lacrosse. The policy encouraging lacrosse in the schools, and of spending money on sticks and equipment for boys was now showing its benefits. The annual report for 1929 took pride in emphasising that never before in Australia had any one state had so many players under the control of its association. The figures given by "Iroquois" in The Australasian were never higher than those contained in the annual report. He stated that there were " 1500 players in Victoria, probably more than in all the other states combined".

The administration of lacrosse in Victoria had always had a wider vision for the future of the game than merely in the confines of their own state. In spite of the difficulties and expense of sending a team to Perth, they committed themselves to being represented at the triennial carnival to be carried out as part of the celebrations of the centenary of the city. In addition to these responsibilities, the association accepted invitations to send teams to Adelaide and Brisbane. The fact that the Victorian association had received invitations from the Associations in these other states indicates that progress was being made throughout the Commonwealth.

The Victorian association also kept in touch with the associations in Canada and England so that visits to or from these countries should be arranged. It was fervently hoped in Victoria that the Australian Lacrosse Council could be set up at the triennial conference, so that there would be a single authority representing the whole of Australia through which international visits could be arranged.

In his first report for the 1929 season, "Iroquois" indicated the heavy responsibilities that would fall to the Hon. Secretary of the Victorian association. In addition to organising the pennant programme for an increasing number of teams, he would need to supervise the raising of money for interstate games. Although the registrations for senior teams had risen from 2 guineas to 5 guineas, this would fall short of the expenses that would accrue. Other events and functions would have to be conducted, and then there would be the onerous task of selecting teams and providing officials.

The first responsibility of the secretary of the association was to send off the domestic pennant season to a good start. This took place on 4 May. From the first match it was evident that a high standard of play would be achieved during the pennant season.

The problem of maintaining a high standard of conduct on the field still caused some anxiety. With a view to emphasising sportsmanship, the Committee decided to institute an award to be made, as Mr Balmer expressed it in his motion at the Committee meeting on 29 March, "for manly conduct, true sportsmanship combined with ability". The idea was discussed at the April meeting, which accepted the motion, and drew up the manner by which the recipient should be chosen. "The referees each Saturday should put the name of one player from each side in an envelope, and that same be opened at the end of the season by the Chairman of Committees and that the player having the maximum number of votes be declared the winner". This no doubt emphasises the value the Committee gave to the true spirit of amateurism. However it did not remove all instances of rough play and bad sportsmanship. Reports and accusations were continually being laid before the Committee. The culprits were not only among the players of the Adult Deaf and Dumb club, for those members some allowances might be made. They also came from among the members of the larger clubs such as Malvern and Williamstown. The incidents indicated the need for continual vigilance. It is hard to believe that providing such a distinction could have been devised merely to reward players who reached a high standard of conduct. That would imply that misconduct was the norm. The man who received the trophy would not require it as an incentive, but it might bring into prominence the desirable aspects of a great game. The association's medals for sportsmanship and skill were awarded in 1929 to Messrs A. McIndoe and C. Dickinson.

The triennial carnival took place in Perth and was reported in the Australasian on 7 September. This was the sixth of the contests to determine the champion state of Australia, and to earn the custodianship of the Garland - McHarg Cup. It had been won three times by South Australia and twice by Victoria. It was early evident that these two states would be the principal contenders. The opening ceremony was performed by the Governor of Western Australia, Sir H. Campion at the Subiaco oval.

The results of the carnival were:

Vic	d.	N.S.W.	19 - 2
S.A.	d.	W.A.	9 - 6
W.A.	d.	N.S.W.	10 - 6
V.	d.	Q	18 - 2
V.	d.	S.A.	10 - 6
V.	d.	W.A.	23 - 7

The best and fairest player in the carnival was adjudged to be A. McIndoe of Victoria.

The Western Australian association gave their visitors generous hospitality, and from the point of view of the games played and the entertainment of players and officials, the carnival was a great success.

Unfortunately in one respect it was disappointing. In conjunction with these carnivals the triennial meeting of delegates for all states held a meeting to decide upon matters of Commonwealth wide interest. For this year, the main business was to set up an Australian Lacrosse Council.

The delegates of the five states represented in the carnival duly met for their triennial conference. They accepted the proposed constitution for the Australian Lacrosse Council. It then had only to be ratified by the state associations to come into effect. When the council was eventually formed, there would be an official authority through which visits from Canada, the United Kingdom and other countries where lacrosse was played, could be arranged. It was hoped that the first meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council would be held in January, 1930. However the formation of the council was delayed, objections judged by the annual report of the Victorian association to be unimportant had been raised, and the formation of the council was delayed.

The year 1930 was during a period of social and political history which was to have severe repercussions over the whole world. A devastating economic depression of unusual harshness now

set in. To what extent its ravages would be reflected in a small region like Victoria, and in the affairs of one of its growing sporting activities remains to be seen.

This was the Great Depression. Many myths have arisen about its disastrous effects, which for most people were real enough. Businesses collapsed, and others found it necessary to husband their finances and to retrench employees. Work for the unemployed was difficult to find. It is interesting to see what extent the Depression affected lacrosse in Australia.

At first the depressed economic situation does not seem to have affected lacrosse severely. "Iroquois", in his first report for the season of 1930 stated that 67 teams had been entered for the Victorian premiership competitions, in 6 divisions. The following week he amended the number of teams to 68. The number registered for 1929 had been 62, so there was a pleasing increase. In addition, more than 250 schoolboys were engaged in mid-week competitions. Thus it would seem that at the beginning of 1930 the Depression had had little adverse effect.

In fact, 1930 seems to have been more a season of lost opportunities than one of recession. The formation of the Australian Council was still delayed. This was unfortunate, for there were important developments in world lacrosse in which Australia might have exerted a significant influence. "Iroquois" speaks of a letter received by Mr. Howard Balmer from Mr. Lee, Hon. secretary of International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse. It happened that Mr. Lee had met Mr. F. Waters of the M.C.C. lacrosse section, from whom he had gathered much needed information about lacrosse in Australia. Included in Mr. Lee's letter was a copy of a report on an informal meeting held in Amsterdam during the Olympic Games. As a result of this informal meeting the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse had been formed. This federation desired to secure the affiliation of South Africa and Australia to this international governing body. Negotiations were currently proceeding with the International Olympic authorities for recognition of lacrosse in the Olympic Games. Such recognition was not easy, for the tendency was to reduce the number of activities rather than to increase them. The next Olympic Games would be held in Los Angeles in 1932. Mr. Lee wanted to exert the maximum pressure on the Olympic authorities, and wanted to know if there was any possibility that Australia might field a team, if, at the Berlin Congress to be held that month, lacrosse was admitted to the Olympic competitions.

Mr. Balmer had written to Mr. Lee expressing the view that the Victorian association would welcome such an affiliation, or to anything that would lead to the advancement of the game. He had written to the South Australian, Western Australian, Queensland and New South Wales associations to ascertain their views. It was clear, however, that consent from some individual states would carry little weight. It was becoming increasingly evident that the Australian Council should be formed.

The delay seemed unnecessary. At the triennial conference in Perth all delegates from all states had agreed to the formation of the Council, but they could do so only subject to ratification by their governing bodies. The South Australian association refused assent, and submitted new proposals, to which it had enlisted the support of Queensland. The New South Wales association was still considering the matter. If that state was prepared to endorse the Perth propositions, there would be a majority of states in favour, and the Australian Council could be formed, but whether an Australian Council endorsed by only three states could function was another matter, and the procrastination continued.

The difference of opinion apparently lay in the reluctance of the South Australian association to delegate to the Australian Council the authority to arrange interstate fixtures. There might well have been justification for the South Australian attitude. Lacrosse in Australia was strictly an amateur game, and the sources of income were limited. A State association might well have difficulty in financing trips to the more distant states, such as the Australian Council might decree. The Queensland association supported the views of South Australia. It might find that the financial resources of a small association would not support regular trips, say to Western Australia, which the Australian Council would almost certainly embody in its programmes. It is worth noting that the Western Australian association was strongly in favour, and gave adverse publicity to the South Australian views, and vigorously supported the Victorian position.

There does not seem to have been real acrimony between the Victorian and the South Australian associations concerning the formation of the Australian Council. The South Australian team was about to visit Victoria for their annual contest, and the preparations for the visit included the appointment of a strong entertainment committee, consisting of Messrs G. Webb, G. Flood, A. Deacon, C. Melville, V. Sayle, A. McIndoe, and the secretary, Mr. Howard Balmer, the assistant secretary, Mr. Marshall and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Marshall. The manager of the South Australian team was to be Mr. Harold Rule, a man highly regarded in Victoria.

In the meantime, some rethinking was going on in the states. It was believed that at their next meeting the Queensland association would rescind their support for the South Australian proposals. The New South Wales association was also reported to be ready to support the proposals put to the delegates in Perth. "Iroquois", on 12 July 1930, emphasised the need for a quick achievement of unanimity. The matters of The Olympic Games, and visits of overseas teams needed prompt and clear attention.

On 9 September 1930 "Iroquois" was able to report that confirmation had been received from Queensland that their association had rescinded their support for the South Australian amendments, and would now support Victoria and Western Australia. It seemed probable that New South Wales would soon follow Queensland's example. With a five to one majority the formation of the Australian Council could proceed; but whether it was wise to do so with South Australia in opposition, one of the strongest and oldest supporters of lacrosse in Australia, was another matter. Optimism was expressed that unanimity could be achieved.

The main activity of any association is the effective management of the game at club level. The fixtures for 1930 were successfully carried out, and a high standard of play was achieved among the clubs. The Coburg club won the senior premiership. This was an interesting achievement, in that it was the first time a club from the northern suburbs had won the senior competition, and thus become the holders of the Joel Fox shield.

Each year it seemed that new problems arose concerning the interpretation of the rules. Unforeseen occasions brought circumstances to notice for which there seemed to be no precedent. So that referees could be kept up to date with developments in rules and administration the following motion came before the Committee:

MOTION

That three (3) stewards be appointed whose duties it (sic) shall be:

1. To instruct the referees in the interpretation of the laws of the game.
2. To attend games each and every Saturday and/or any other day when a competition game is being played.
3. To hold a school of instruction at least once every two weeks during the playing season and at least once a week for one month prior to the commencement date of each and every playing season.
4. Receive and consider all complaints made by clubs against referees and if thought fit reprimand/or pass on to the committee of the V.L.A. for their consideration and further action.
5. They are hereby jointly and severally given the power to call a referee to order for any breach he or they may make during the game, but such power shall only be exercised during the interval of the game.
6. Any penalty inflicted by the stewards shall not take effect until confirmed by the committee of the V.L.A., except in the case of a reprimand which shall in all cases be recorded against

the referee.

7. To appoint referees to all games and generally control them.
8. In the case of a steward not being a member of the committee of the V.L.A., he shall be made an ex officio member of the committee.
9. The stewards shall be elected annually by the committee at their first meeting for each and every year.
10. The stewards are also hereby given power to deal with and/or settle any dispute which may arise during the game.
11. Clause No.10 shall not deprive any player or club from his or their right of appeal as set down in the rules of the V.L.A.

Situations which might have needed clarification were such as caused the following instruction to be issued to referees: "That this association instructs all referees that in the event of the goal umpire, referee, or any other person not connected with the game being struck by the ball the game shall be immediately stopped, and the ball be either bounced or faced-off in accordance with the rules". Such an instruction can have arisen only in response to some incident that occurred during a game.

Another situation was discussed at the committee meeting on 25 August. "The committee is of the opinion that the goal umpire has full control over the goal crease and should give his decision having this rule in mind. Before giving his decision the goal umpire must get the all-clear signal from the referee. The committee is of the opinion that the referee has no control over the goal crease and has no power to disallow a goal through breach of this rule. The committee suggests that all referees be instructed to give a decided all-clear signal and inform the goal umpires of the system to be adopted before the start of the match".

There were still misdemeanours on the playing field. A report against a Coburg player for striking his opponent from Malvern was upheld, and the offending player was ordered to stand down for two matches. In the game between Williamstown and University a Williamstown player was reported for disputing the referee's decision and using threatening words while acting as field captain. The player's previous good reputation tempered the sentence to a severe reprimand. The committee expressed the determination that referee's should be given as much respect and protection as possible. Future such cases, they affirmed, would receive much more severe penalty.

The path of even the best intentioned referee was evidently not always smooth.

Another cause of dispute was the apparent looseness in the eligibility of players. A protest was laid before the Investigating Committee by Caulfield against Malvern for playing A. Coldstream in the A section. Malvern was found guilty of a breach of the rules, and a fine of \$ 1 - 1 - 0 was imposed. At the same time, the Investigation Committee stated that in their view Rule 45 was too wide in its operation and was not definite regarding the time limit. They recommended an examination of the rule and making such amendments as might be found necessary.

A protest against the inclusion of a player in a team was also made by Glen Iris against Essendon. Essendon was accused of having included in its team H. Dunn, after the permit committee had refused permission for him to play in the semi-finals. This protest was upheld, and the game was awarded to Glen Iris.

The following amendment to the rules was presented to the annual general meeting for consideration: "No player who has played three matches in any section for a period of three years prior to the commencement of the current lacrosse season shall be allowed to play in any section junior thereto unless with the sanction of the Permit Committee. Provided always that the Permit Committee shall not grant a permit to more than one member of any club, who has in that or the previous season

played with the senior section or the next lower section in which such club engages to play with a section two grades lower than the senior team aforementioned. Provided however that notwithstanding anything in this section hereinbefore contained in the event of the committee degrading a team from a higher to a lower grade, then it shall not be necessary for any player of such de-graded club who has played more than three matches in the senior section during the previous year with such de-graded club to obtain a permit to play with such de-graded club in the lower section".

With such regulations, it is not surprising that some members of some clubs had difficulty in understanding exactly what they meant. Nevertheless the alterations to Rule 45 was carried unanimously.

The main interstate game for the season, against South Australia, was played on August 9th. on the Malvern ground. Unfortunately the weather was bad, the players having to splash through mud and water. The young team sent by South Australia were unused to such conditions, and could not reach their potential skill. The result was that Victoria won the game by 24 goals to 1.

Other interstate games were played against New South Wales and Queensland. The Victorian team was under the management of Mr. G. Flood. Mr. Flood and his team managed to meet their commitments in spite of torrential rains in Queensland, and in so doing they gained much respect in Queensland. The visit of the Victorian team to the states north of them gave great encouragement to the followers of lacrosse in those states.

For the first time a Victorian B team played against a similar team in South Australia. The game was close, ending in a victory to the South Australians by 16 goals to 11.

An interesting report appeared in The Australasian on 2 May 1931 under the subheading of "Answers to Correspondents". It covered in brief the history of lacrosse from the earliest of times to the current period:

"Cherokee" (Melb.) The early French colonists of America, seeing in the implement used by Indians in their inter-tribal war games, a resemblance to a bishop's crosier, called "Lacrosse, and this originated the name.

C.P. (Bendigo) C.L. Murray's record throw of a Lacrosse ball (162 yards 6 ins) was made at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 11 November 1903.

Review of the Game: "It has been claimed for lacrosse that it is the oldest organised game in the world. It is certain for that before the colonisation of North America, Red Indians tribes engaged in a war game, which was a supreme test of endurance, skill and bravery, and that this was the origin of the Canadian national past-time. Taken up by white settlers the Indian game was improved steadily until, from a contest which called for several days, and with goals many miles apart, with not a few fatalities among the attackers and the defenders, it was developed into the present splendid sport. Now not only in Canada, but in the United States, Great Britain and Australia lacrosse is one of the leading games for virile youth. Over a hundred years ago, it is stated, lacrosse was the first inter-collegiate contest in America, but it was not until 1881 that it became an organised game in U.S. colleges. It's growth has since that time been remarkable. The game was introduced into England by a team of Iroquois Indians in 1867, and was seriously taken up by Englishmen. In 1875 the cross-country club, known as the Thames Hare and Hounds, was the first to play it in the country, followed by clubs in the north of England and in Scotland. The visit of a Montreal team in 1876 gave a stimulus to the game there, and led to its gaining a foothold in Ireland.

The first international game was played at the Kennington Oval in 1883. Before the Great War (i.e. World War I) Canada had very many splendid teams, but the growth of professionalism nearly killed it. There were two organisations, the professional and the amateur. Since 1918 there has been a lessening of the professional element, and a healthy growth of amateur teams, to the great advantage and advancement of the game there. Introduced into the schools in the United States, lacrosse is taking a foremost place in the sports programme and is proving a serious rival to the professional

game of baseball. Lacrosse is now played in the naval and military colleges, at Yale, Princeton, Syracuse, Hobart, and Cornell, and at all leading colleges.

In England there are 600 teams. The game has developed mainly in the north, Manchester, and Stockport being strongholds. Oxford and Cambridge both have strong teams.

The game was introduced into Australia in 1876 by L.L Mount. George Beech, one of the present life members of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, was the first Australian player. The Victorian Lacrosse Association was formed in 1877. The first interstate match was played in 1885. The game was introduced to New South Wales in 1883, and South Australia about the same time. The visit of the Canadian team in 1907 gave great impetus to the game, taught our players some useful lessons, and greatly increased its popularity. In 1908 Messrs Garland and McHarg gave a cup for the Australian championships. This is played for triennially when the states all meet in a number of matches. The cup, first won by Victoria in 1910, and again in 1920, had been in the possession at the interstate matches in Perth. In the interstate matches played annually between Victoria and South Australia the South Australians were until recently the superior team. They were defeated on their own ground for the first time in 1926. At the outbreak of the war (i.e. W.W. I) there were 800 players and 52 teams in Victoria, compared with about 1,200 players and 64 teams at the present season. Though figures for this year are below the record entry, they are extremely gratifying, having regard to the Depression and the increased cost of sticks and other material due to the high tariff.

Lacrosse has come a long way as a leading sport in Australia, and promises great development through its introduction into the secondary and high schools. It is a game that calls for stamina and strict attention to training, the exercise of good judgement, quick thinking and skill in the use of the stick and in its command of the ball (only acquired by diligent training and discipline in teamwork, and above all self-control). It has an attraction, not only for the players, but as a spectacle is second only to the Australian game of football.

In South Australia the game has this year held its way in adverse conditions. The numbers engaged in the premierships competitions will be little if any less than last season. There, as in Victoria, they have many enthusiastic supporters of the game, who, though no longer active in the field, lend valuable support in the councils of the Association. Arnold Littledike, after many years of untiring and valuable service to the game, as Hon Secretary of the Queensland Association, has relinquished that arduous position, but retains his interest in the association's work as Chairman of Committees. He is succeeded by Bert Martin, who, since 1927 has been a member of the Kalinga Club in Brisbane, playing a good sound game as defence wing or 3rd man. His assistant in secretarial duties is Harold P. Evans, also a Kalinga member, who commenced playing in 1924. His position in the final was also wing defence and sometimes centre. Last year he acted as one of the referees. In a letter to the Hon. Secretary of the Victorian association (Mr. Howard Balmer), Evans states that the prevailing depression is affecting sport in Queensland, as in all states, and that most clubs are not likely to have as many teams as last year. Kalinga, however, is an exception, its membership being much larger, now nearly 80, with 6 teams entered. Chelmer, previously the lacrosse stronghold, is experiencing difficulty in fielding a good A team, and has only in addition one B and one C team. Toowoomba will be up to last year's strength, but Yeronga has lost its B team trying to form an A team. The registrations at the time of writing were 5 A, 9 B and 6 C teams. It is probable that the best B team will be promoted to A. The game in Western Australia gained in prestige and support from the holding of the interstate games in 1929, and lacrosse is steadily prospering in the western state. The Queenslanders are so appreciative of Geo. Flood's efforts in taking a Victorian team to that state last year, notwithstanding floods and hard times, that they promise to overcome their difficulties in the same spirit, by sending a team to Victoria this year"

This account of lacrosse emphasises the importance of establishing the Australian Lacrosse Council. It is unfortunate that no mention is made of lacrosse in South Africa; for Australians were largely responsible for establishing the game there, and, from Mr. Lee's letter we may infer that it was still being played there. An Australian Lacrosse Council could take an active part in world-wide deliberations, and act for the good of the game everywhere; and through it the stronger states could help the weaker states, particularly in the stringencies brought on by the Depression.

By 1930 girls lacrosse was being instructed by Miss Louise Hardy at St Peter's Collegiate Girls School and Girton House School in South Australia.

No sport, or for that matter, no other human activity, lives isolated from its community. As the Depression became more serious, business became retarded, and social and recreational activities began to find difficulty in raising money to keep going, let alone develop. Many firms became bankrupt; others had to halve the value of their shares. Employees wages were reduced, if they were fortunate to be retained in employment. The people who supported lacrosse were the same ones who; had to find money to provide for their families, to pay school fees for their children, and meet the daily cost of living. By 1931 these stringencies were becoming apparent.

One indication of this condition is the reduced space in newspapers devoted to reporting sports and games. The Australasian, for example, on whose columns we have relied so heavily for information reduced its size by half. Until this time the issues of The Australasian filled two volumes a year; in 1931 they were contained in a single volume, and it only about two thirds the size of the previous half-yearly volumes. It is therefore to be expected that information from this source would be severely limited.

Other aspects of the depressed economy affected all sports. Governments at all levels were hard pressed to find means to pay their armies of public servants, servicing debts, and meeting the day to day demands of civil administration. One source of revenue was to impose duties on imports. The number of supporters, increasing yearly as they were, still hardly provided demand enough to support a local industry. This meant that lacrosse equipment became increasingly expensive, and the provision of lacrosse gear for recruits and school-boys was curtailed. In football, the primary need is a football, and Mr. Sherrin had been making his famous footballs for a many years. For lacrosse the necessary equipment is more elaborate. A lacrosse player needs a special cap with a large peak to deflect from his face a chance downward blow from an opponent's crosse. His crosse is a complicated structure for which no Australian timber was suitable, and at least the special wood must be imported, if not the finished article. The ball, no doubt, could be made locally, but every lacrosse player needs special gloves to protect his fingers, wrists and forearms. Thus the duty placed on the importation of lacrosse material greatly hampered the development of the game.

The first report on lacrosse in the Australasian for 1931 appeared on 2 May. This suggested that the Depression had not yet had much effect on the game in Victoria. South Australia anticipated a little decrease in the number of players. Queensland anticipated significant reduction in the number of teams entered for pennant, and it was reported that the membership of some clubs was heavily reduced. In Western Australia the game appeared to be holding its popularity, largely owing to the stimulus given to the game by its having hosted the carnival in 1929, the centenary of Perth.

Reports of the weeks activities in lacrosse became curtailed. No accounts were given between that on the 6th June and the next on 8 August. On that date an account is given of pennant play in Victoria and in Western Australia, and the names of the members of the South Australian team to visit Victoria on 15 August were published.

On 22 August the results of the interstate matches were given. Victoria won the games in both sections.

Results of pennant matches in Sydney were also given.

There seems to have been little activity in the development of the Australian Lacrosse Council, or with constructive action to nurture and propagate the game. The only positive fact to emerge was that Queensland had decided to join the Council, and had appointed Mr. George Flood for the time being to act as their proxy.

While deducing that the deceleration in the extension of lacrosse was caused by the Depression, there may have been other contributing factors, such as changes in administration and officials. In

Queensland, as was reported on 2 May 1931, Arnold Littledike resigned from the position of secretary of the Queensland Association. He had served for many years and had seen the game progress in his state. He was succeeded in the position by Mr. Bert. Martin, an active player since 1927, and, no doubt, a capable and energetic man; but a change in the most responsible position in the administration invariably brings about a slowing down while the new administrator and his team settle down to their work. In Victoria a similar reorganisation was taking place. On 21 May 1932 The Australasian reported that the Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, Mr. Howard Balmer had resigned from the position on the grounds of ill-health and pressure of business.

A sub-committee consisting of Messrs Flood, Dickinson and Fowler was appointed to make recommendations for filling the vacant position. There may have been some tensions to resolve, for it was not till the 11th June that The Australasian announced that Mr. A.J. Fowler had been elected to the position of Hon. Secretary of the Association. Mr. Fowler was reported as being a young solicitor, who had been associated with lacrosse for the past six years, playing for Williamstown in the senior section. On Mr. Fowler's appointment, Mr. Gibbs, who had been Assistant Secretary to Mr. Balmer, tendered his resignation from that position. We may sympathise with Mr. Gibbs's charging, but we may assume that his nomination was not without support, and that the appointment implies a certain amount of political in-play.

In 1931 the South Australian Lacrosse Association discussed the introduction of women's lacrosse in the state.

The season of 1932 opened with guarded enthusiasm throughout Australia. Play began on 16 April in Victoria. The weather was wet and the grounds sodden, but all matches scheduled for the day were completed.

In the wider view there were encouraging signs. A letter was received by the Victorian association proposing that a series of triangular matches should be played in Ballarat when the South Australian second division team visited Victoria for the interstate fixture. This indicates that lacrosse was still flourishing in that country centre, though no reference had been made to the game there in 1931.

Another significant development in the progress of lacrosse in Australia during 1932 was the resurgence of the game in Tasmania. No official events in lacrosse in Tasmania had been reported since the war. The first indication that interest was being stirred in Tasmania is contained in the report in The Australasian for 11 June 1932. "Iroquois" wrote: "With Tasmania's resumption of lacrosse after a long interval, the Australian Council, now in being, to foster and control the game, the prospects of increasing Commonwealth wide interest in this fine amateur sport are hopeful and encouraging".

This was followed by a report on 22 July 1932, in which further detail concerning lacrosse in Tasmania was provided. The report stated: "The Tasmanian Lacrosse Association has asked Victoria to send a junior A or a team of combined junior A and B section players to the southern state in August. The only hindrance in acceding to this request is finance in that whether it would be possible to obtain a sufficient number of players who are prepared to visit Tasmania at their own expense. The association is inviting nominations for the team".

The financial problem was the more difficult in that, in the same report, "Iroquois" had stated: "Western Australia and Queensland will be represented at the carnival in August. Queensland has suggested that Victoria might guarantee a proportion of the expenses of sending a team".

The Victorian association considered that, in the state of their current finances this would not be possible. Already they had decided to impose a levy on registered players of £ 1 - 10 - 0 for each senior team, £ 1 - 2 - 6 for each A, and 15/- for each B team to meet the cost of staging the carnival.

"Iroquois" continued in his report: "Frank Trainor, in a letter to the Hon. Secretary of the V.L.A. (A.J. Fowler), says that 'the greatest frill to lacrosse in Tasmania would be a visit from a Victorian team some time in July or August. He suggests a team of junior A or a combined team of A and B players, and says that it would not need to be the best possible team. A match could be arranged as a "curtain-

raiser' to a league football match, and would thus be viewed by thousands. Mr. Trainor, among other methods of publicity for the game in the island state, is arranging for talks on lacrosse by wireless broadcasting. One of the greatest difficulties in the game's revival in Tasmania was found to be the high cost of material at the present time. The Tasmanian association granted £25 to assist clubs, and this liability is being rapidly met by donations from supporters".

A further development was reported on 16 July 1932. "When the Tasmanian association requested that a team of A section or A and B combined," wrote "Iroquois," "should be sent from Victoria to Tasmania, the Victorian association had little hope of being able to comply. The visit of a Victorian team was desired to further the interests of the game in Tasmania. Now Capt. Fearon, the President of the Williamstown club, has generously offered to take the Williamstown A team (which has the bye on 6 August) to Tasmania at his own expense. The team will leave Melbourne on the 3 August and will play a game against Launceston on 6 August, returning to Melbourne on the following Monday. The Victorian association is prepared to receive nominations for the Tasmanian visit from players who are willing to go at their own expense".

On 23 July, "Iroquois" continued: "At the monthly meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association Capt. Fearon's offer to take a team of Williamstown A section players to Tasmania was considered, and official recognition of the team as representative of this state was granted to the team, which will be under the management of Mr. A. Deacon".

The report of 13 August concluded the saga: "In an endeavour to give encouragement to lacrosse in Launceston, wrote Iroquois", "Williamstown played them on Saturday, and treated the crowd to a good exhibition of the game. The Tasmanians showed fair form, considering their lack of match practice but Williamstown won by 13 goals to 6".

This revival was confined to the north of Tasmania and centred on Launceston: but an encouraging report appeared in The Australasian's report on lacrosse on 20 August, under the sub-heading of Hobart Notes. It stated: "An effort is being made to revive lacrosse in Hobart. Captain J.H. Fearon of Melbourne, has been interesting himself in the matter, and he has called a meeting for this week. It is hoped to form two or three teams. Before the war lacrosse was fairly popular in Hobart".

The carnival was fast approaching, and on 23 July "Iroquois" wrote: "The triennial matches for the championship of Australia will be held on the dates fixed. The last doubt was resolved on the receipt of a letter from Queensland intimating that the financial difficulty had been overcome, and that a team would be sent".

In spite of the difficulties caused by the Depression the old traditions of lacrosse were being maintained, and new developments being encouraged. Of the established traditions the triennial carnival, during which a round-robin of interstate matches were played to determine the championship of Australia and the holders of the Garland-McHarg cup, were played.

The trophy arose from the historic visit of the Canadian team in 1907. Arranging suitable fixtures for the visit of that team had brought players from different states together. The trophy was now jealously fought for and did much to stimulate the rivalry between the states. At the beginning of the carnival in 1932 Victoria held the cup. For many years the contest was virtually between South Australia and Victoria; but the challenges mounted for it made the Interstate carnival an important event in the lacrosse calendar. Whether the home state had no chance for success detracted little from the stimulus of holding the carnival have to the game in the host state.

Preparations for the carnival made much work for the administration of the host state. On the 23 July 1932 "Iroquois" gave the names of the players selected to represent South Australia and Queensland.

A varied social programme was arranged for the visitors. The official opening ceremony would be carried out on 27 August at 3 p.m. by the acting Governor, Sir William Irving. On 28 August there would be a motor trip to Warburton. The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Cr. Gengoult Smith, would welcome the visiting managers and captains at the Town Hall on the Monday morning at 11 o'clock.

On other evenings the visiting players would watch a game of ice-hockey at the Glaciarum. There would be dancing and an exhibition of indoor lacrosse at the Wattle Path Palais in St. Kilda. The social programme would conclude with a smoke night given by the V.L.A. which did its best to make the visit a memorable one for the interstate representatives.

It was customary to hold a meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council during the carnival, and this was set down for the Monday evening.

The events set down for the carnival proceeded smoothly. On the first day there was a large attendance of interested spectators. The five teams lined up before the grandstand for the opening ceremony and Sir William Irvine addressed them. He, being patron of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, stayed on after the ceremony, and watched the whole of the second game. Among the crowd were many former players, and many visitors from the other states. The first match, between New South Wales and South Australia was a victory for South Australia by the record score of 30 goals to 6. The second match, between Western Australia and Victoria was a much closer match, and showed that Western Australia was becoming a force to be reckoned with. Victoria eventually won by a comfortable margin.

The second day's play was marred by continuous rain. The conditions reduced the attendance, and also prevented good displays of lacrosse. The South Australian and the Victorian teams coped adequately with the conditions, but the less experienced players from New South Wales and Queensland found conditions difficult. Victoria beat New South Wales easily by 29 goals to 2, and South Australia's superior skill enabled them to beat Queensland by 21 goals to 3.

The final day's play revealed excellent skills from the teams concerned. Western Australia gave a good display against South Australia. Victoria was undefeated in the carnival and thus gained the title to the Championship of Australia. They therefore became the custodians of the Garland- McHarg Cup. The trophy for the best player in the carnival was awarded to R. Cook of South Australia.

There were matters to be submitted to the Australian Lacrosse Council for adjudication. The first of these concerned the length of the playing field. The proposal was to reduce the distance between the goal nets from 110 yards to 90 yards. The opponents of this move regarded it as a sign of decadence and considered it to be evidence of a lack of training and stamina. The reason for the proposal was that the style of the game had changed. Most of the play now took place around the goals. Much of the area between these circles of activity had become virtually dead ground. Older lacrosseurs looked back to the golden times when centre play was a feature of the game. As "Iroquois" expressed it, "Those of us who watched the pre-war games found much to enjoy and admire in the open games which were favoured by the leading clubs then, with the thrill of a burst of speed when a fast player got well away from his opponent, and the ball passed from stick to stick unerringly and with good purpose, and when a defence wing player frequently made the odd man in a dash to the forward lines. . . . (The proposed alteration) has had some justification in the style of play to which we have become accustomed in the last few seasons, when the tendency has been towards congested, forceful and struggling massed formations, and away from the open game which with fine stick-work made lacrosse such an attractive sport to the onlooker". Old players always tend to be nostalgic and to depreciate changes in tactics that inevitable come into a game. Whatever we spectators may desire, the strategy that leads to a win will be adopted.

South Australia opposed the shortening of the distance between the nets. Mr. W.H. Hodgetts, President of the South Australian Lacrosse Association, during the visit of the Victorian team to South Australia during the previous season had unequivocally expressed his state's opposition. Their view was that the distance should be increased rather than decreased, in the hope of bringing back the centre play into the game which had formerly been so attractive a feature. As South Australia was still not a member of the Australian Lacrosse Council, they would not be in a position to express a view; but members of the Council were under no doubt as to the South Australians views, and in the interest of national harmony they would respect them.

Another matter that Victorian representatives believed should be brought to the notice of the Council was the method of equalising the teams in the event of an injury. The position, as it was interpreted at this time, was that if a player was injured seriously enough for him to leave the field the player opposed to him should also leave the arena. Complications arose over this interpretation. Teams claimed that if the equalising led to one side losing their field captain, that team was doubly penalised. This situation had been dealt with when Section 6 of Law XX1 was placed on the rule book. This provides that if either captain thinks that the standing down of the uninjured player may cause an injustice to his team he may draw the attention of the referee to the facts of the case. Should the referee concur, he may stand down any other opponent he may think fit. This loose ruling had been the cause of ill-feeling. Victorians felt that a clearer ruling was needed, and favoured the replacement of the injured player by a substitute.

The question of equalising sides by substituting players was more important in 6 a side games. If this was done by standing down players, the proportion of players left on the ground was proportionally drastically reduced. In these games it was suggested that the equalising should be done by using substitutes. This was the custom in America, but the practice there had been taken to extremes. Players could be substituted at the whim of their captain, even to the extent of the whole team being replaced. Australian lacrosse officials were firmly against this random deployment of substitutes. It was considered that the permitting of substitutes in the miniature game would provide a precedent for their use in 12 a side games, and the proposal gained little support.

On 9 July 1932, "Iroquois" in his lacrosse notes, used the term "substitute", but it seems that it covered the situation when a player not included in the selected team replaced one who through some unforeseen circumstance had become unavailable. "Iroquois" states that "no player will be allowed to play more than twice as a substitute without obtaining a permit from the association. Formerly only the consent of the opposing captain was necessary". This showed that the Victorian association was strict in the matter of substitutes.

Another matter that was brought to the attention of the Australian Lacrosse Council was one in which a different interpretation was applied in different states. This was the question of the position of the goal-keeper when the referee blew his whistle for a foul. In Victoria the ruling was that if a goal-keeper is out of his crease when the referee signals a foul, he alone is allowed by the rules to move from his position and resume his place in goal, excepting when he had caused the foul. In one state, the goal-keeper's place in the field when the whistle sounds and he goes back to his crease, his position may be taken by another player. The council was asked to resolve this anomaly. The determination arrived at was "in the event of the ball going out of bounds and the referee deciding to bounce the ball where the ball went out, the goal-keeper shall have the right to return to his goal, but no other player shall be allowed to take his place at boundary". A further amendment was added: "provided that the goal-keeper shall not be at the time over the centre line."

A new development in the game of lacrosse took place in 1932. This was the invention and introduction in Victoria of box lacrosse, and indoor lacrosse. There is no record as to who first conceived the idea, but the first written information found is in a report in the Australasian by "Iroquois" on 4 June 1932. He stated: "Lacrosse was first played as an indoor game at a charity sports carnival at St. Kilda (Vic) last July. Teams were limited to six a side. They wore rubber soled shoes and used a sponge rubber ball painted white. Canadians quickly adopted this form of the game seeing in it a splendid opportunity to practice and play the game when weather conditions forbade outdoor sports. It was taken up enthusiastically by the United States, not only as an amateur sport, but also professionally. Professional teams are now playing in competition games in New York, Chicago, Toronto, Detroit, Montreal, Buffalo, Cleveland and Washington. The game is called in America "the great Australian game of indoor lacrosse".

The Victorian Lacrosse Association is taking up this feature of the game in earnest. Since its small beginning it has so completely captured the imagination of the Canadian and the American clubs. A sub-committee has been formed to submit proposals for conducting what is now known as box lacrosse. An arrangement has been made with a St. Kilda dance Palais to conduct a series of games during the winter. The sub-committee consists of I.F.J. Turnbull, E. Keogh, H. Balmer, J. Beattie, I.

Schafe, and N. Robson. They will conduct the games under the direction of the Victorian Lacrosse Association.

Box lacrosse was not regarded only as an indoor game. The idea had caught on, and on 11 June "Iroquois" wrote: "The six a side matches at Malvern on Monday 6 June, which attracted an entry of 42 teams, were thoroughly enjoyed by players and spectators alike, and must have awarded ample reward for the labour entailed in arranging and conducting such a large series of events to schedule time. The success of the arrangements was due mainly to the efforts of the late Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. Balmer, his successor, Mr. G. Fowler, and K. Keogh, I.F.I. Turnbull and R. D. Marshall.

On 18 June "Iroquois" reported that the sub-committee had completed its work of drafting regulations for the control of box lacrosse matches. Arrangements have been made for the first series of indoor games to be played at the Wattle Path Palais on the evening of 28 June. The matches will be of 20 minutes duration. Caulfield and Williamstown will begin their contest at 8 p.m, and at 10 p.m Camberwell will play Malvern. So great has been the interest in 6 a side that there is no doubt of the success of the indoor feature of the game, which had its origin in St. Kilda last July."

As we have seen, the question of substitute players arose in connection with box lacrosse. It had already been aired in connection with the field game. The practice in America was to allow as many substitutes as a team might wish to use, and to change players whenever and wherever it was convenient, even to the extent of replacing the whole team. Australian administrators disapproved of the practice of wholesale substitutions. Their view was that lacrosse, to be an acceptable, manly game, should test physical fitness, training and endurance. The general opinion opposed any variation of the existing rules for 6 a side games, seeing a possible precedent to be used to influence the conduct of the field game. For the time, at least, no change in the rules was made for the 6 a side game.

On 9 July "Iroquois" reported details of the indoor 6 a side games. They had caught the interest of a large number of lacrosse supporters. A considerable attendance had watched the games, with more than satisfactory financial results, in that receipts had more than met the initial expenditure. It was found during the first match that the lighting was a little unsatisfactory, but this was improved for the second match, and it would be further improved for the next series, to be played the next week, on 16 July. On the polished floor the play was very fast. The stickwork was not so clean as the players might have desired, but in any game it takes time to become accustomed to artificial light. The frequency with which the ball went out of bounds in the narrow space hindered the flow of the game, but this would be remedied on the next occasion.

The next fixture was set down for 19 July, again at the Wattle Path Palais. The sub-committee controlling the game had installed a greatly improved system of lighting. In an attempt to improve the stick-work a less resilient ball was used. The modifications made after the first series improved the game. This exhibition was marked by good stick-work, which aroused the enthusiasm of the spectators. The placing of boards around the boundaries improved the flow of the game. They kept the ball in play and reduced the number of occasions on which it had to be bounced.

The box lacrosse game had proved so successful that the committee of the V.L.A. decided to stage exhibitions of it during the interval of the match between Victoria and Western Australia, the second being during the game between Victoria and South Australia. Interstate players were greatly interested in the 6 a side, 50 yard game. The programme of the box lacrosse matches was extended. Two club games were played at the second demonstration at the carnival; but the occasion was the more memorable because an interstate game also took place. Victoria played a team selected from all the other states.

Western Australia followed up the experience of box lacrosse. Other states may also have done so, but we have firm confirmation from Western Australia. In the annual report of the Western Australia Lacrosse Association for 1934 we read: "Box Lacrosse: In addition to the staging of this popular side-light at the Gala and the Kelmscott meetings, the Box Lacrosse Management Committee inaugurated a very successful series of lunch-hour games, played on Wednesdays at 1.15p.m at the Perth

Esplanade. The games attracted large followings and it is assured that lacrosse secured much publicity as a direct result of these exhibitions."

A last situation arose which may be noted as presaging things to come. In the issue of The Australasian on 11 June 1932 "Iroquois" reported the attendance of a lady at the delegates meeting. She represented one of the school teams. The question arose whether a woman should be allowed to take part in the control of men's sports. Mr. J. B. Fair, the chairman of the meeting, gave as his decision that the lady could take her place among the delegates, for the rules of the V.L.A. did not specify the sex of delegates. The majority, while recognising the legal correctness of the decision, were not happy with it, stating that the intrusion of a woman into the control of what was essentially a man's sport should not be allowed.

The question was raised again, as "Iroquois" reported on 16 July 1932. A motion that a by-law re-enacted to the effect that all representatives should be male. The proposition was ruled out-of-order by the chairman. As the Constitution did not specify the sex of delegates the meeting decided in favour of admitting the woman nominated by the school team. "Iroquois" believed that the question would again be raised, but there seems to have been no further discussion. No doubt the delegates considered that the controversy would die a natural death.

Depression or no Depression, 1932 seems to have been an eventful year.

By 1933 the effects of the Depression were becoming more noticeable. One of these was a change in the editorial policy of the Australasian. This publication now reported the less widely supported sports under the general heading of "Other Sports". As a consequence lacrosse was no longer reported regularly, week by week, but occasionally, depending, no doubt, on the amount of space remaining after horse-racing, football and cricket had been given sufficient space. Nevertheless, important developments occurred during 1933.

The first report of the lacrosse season, on 1 July 1933, in the Australasian, devoted some space to a letter received from Mr. C. C. Lee, the Honorary Secretary of the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse. Among other items of interest was that he had made a second request to the International Olympic Council to have lacrosse scheduled in the list of international games at the Olympiad in Berlin in 1936, but was unsuccessful. The reason given was that the Council was averse to increasing the official programme. At Amsterdam in 1928 a demonstration game between Canada and the United States had aroused interest in Germany. It would strengthen any further appeal if it could be shown that lacrosse was played also in Australia, England Scotland, Ireland and South Africa, as indeed it was, it would be more seriously considered by the International Olympic Committee.

The letter was addressed to the Secretary of the Victorian Lacrosse Association though it was now obviously a matter to be decided by the Australian Lacrosse Council. This body, at the beginning of 1933, was not fully representative of the Australian states, South Australia still refusing to join. No doubt this is why the letter was addressed to Victoria, that state being the one in which the game was most extensively played, and whose administration had always shown constructive and imaginative approach towards the propagation of the game. Mr. Lee recognised the difficulty of raising the money to send a team to England, but he urged Australia to send a team to the British Empire Games (Now known as the Commonwealth Games) in London in 1934. A visit to England by an Australian team would undoubtedly help towards the inclusion of lacrosse in the Olympic Games.

Mr. Lee indicated that it was well known in England that the game was taken seriously in Australia. Among Australians playing in England was Dr. L. Corbett. In England he was known as a highly regarded Melbourne University player who in recent years had rendered splendid service to the game in Western Australia. He was maintaining his interest in England. He had created a good impression as one of the Willoughby club's homes. One English critic described his stickwork as being unique. He showed to the best advantage when closely checked, and rarely missed an opportunity to score. He was recently selected to play for Middlesex, the champion club of the south of England against Lancashire, the north of England champions

Another Australian player highly regarded in England was Lindsay Dawkins, a former South Australian player, who was outstanding in his enthusiasm for the game in England. He played for one of the London clubs during 1933.

Unfortunately the time to embark on so major a project as sending an Australian team to England was not then propitious. The Australian Council was still a little tentative, and in New South Wales internal dissension had brought the game almost to extinction.

The real cause for the dissension in New South Wales may indeed have been the stringencies brought about by the Depression. The outward evidence, as reported in the *Australasian* of the 29th July 1933, was an acrimonious meeting of the New South Wales Lacrosse Association, on the 20th July. At that meeting the President (Mr. A. L. Newman), the vice-presidents, Messrs C. Booth, and J. F. Hendren, A. D. Johnson, and R. H. Swanson, the Chairman of Committees, Mr. P. Carney, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. R. Gibbs, the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G. Vincent, and the assistant Hon. treasurer, Mr. H. Sandilands, all tendered their resignations.

These resignations, as The *Australasian* stated, were the outcome of a very unhappy state of affairs that had prevailed in New South Wales lacrosse circles for some time. It was brought to a head by the expulsion, the obligatory 14 days notice of the meeting not having been given, was declared unconstitutional, and the offending member was reinstated. Evidently the present office-bearers had found the member's behaviour highly objectionable; but equally evidently he commanded strong support among delegates.

The dissatisfaction apparently arose from the grading of pennant teams. One club, Eastern Suburbs, was considered to be much too strong a combination for the other contestants. Whether the contentious state of the association caused it, or whether the parlous state of many of the clubs was an effect of hard times is not determined, but the situation was that interest in lacrosse in New South Wales had fallen away until only two clubs, Eastern Suburbs and St. George, could provide a full team.

With all these resignations from the administration it seemed inevitable that the existing association would be disbanded, and that a new one would be formed. "It is hoped", the report concluded, "that wise councils will arise from the dead state to renewed energy and brighter prospects."

The all-state carnival was to have been held in New South Wales in 1935, if the state association could find the money to do so. This seemed unlikely as things stood in New South Wales in 1933, and it was mooted that the carnival should be held in Melbourne if New South Wales was unable to stage it.

It is clear that sending a representative Australian team to England would receive little support from New South Wales.

In spite of the gloomy situation in New South Wales. there were happier developments. Lacrosse was once more established in Tasmania. Three clubs were formed in Hobart, and many of those who had previously supported the game volunteered their services as coaches. Among these was H. L. Battin, who had been a prominent player in South Australia, and later in Hobart. On 16 September The *Australasian* reported that a match had been played at Oatlands, in which Northern Tasmania had defeated Southern Tasmania. It is therefore evident that the game had taken strong root in Launceston. This was a historic occasion, it being the first time that a combined match had been played in Tasmania since 1914.

An important development in lacrosse administration occurred in 1933, although it escaped the notice of the lacrosse correspondent of The *Australasian*. In the annual report of the Western Australian association there appeared a short history of the Australian Lacrosse Council, which concluded thus: "Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland ratified the Constitution (of the Australian Lacrosse

Council) in 1931. New South Wales was admitted in 1932, and in the following year South Australia joined, and thus the Council became truly representative of Australian lacrosse."

The annual interstate match between South Australia and Victoria was in 1933 played in Adelaide. It resulted in a win for Victoria by 18 goals to 10. The Victorians showed excellent form. Their body checking was particularly effective. The Australasian critic stated that "the position play of the forwards was a revelation to the home side", and that "one feature of the match was the superior play of the Victorian side. S. McCorkell, their goal keeper showed sound judgement. He met the ball cleanly. When closely pressed he eluded his opponent cleverly and passed the ball correctly to his team mates. This was the seventh time in succession that Victoria had defeated South Australia. The scoring was the highest since the inception of the interstate games in 1888."

It seems that the 6 - a -side game began to lose a little of its appeal in Victoria during 1933. Many of the leading players refused to take part on account of the risk of injuries that might incapacitate them for the more important pennant games. Some clubs claimed the right to prohibit their members from playing. There were some misgivings about the amateur aspect of the game, especially the indoor contests. While they were excellent entertainment for the spectators, the main benefit accrued to the entrepreneur, the proprietor of the Wattle Path Palais. Lacrosse administrators still took amateurism seriously, not to say fanatically, and distrusted anything that might encourage professionalism. In England, as Mr. C. C Lee, Honorary Secretary of the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse stated in his letter, the innovation of miniature lacrosse did not win universal approval in England. As in America and Canada, the game was taken up professionally, and entrepreneurs tended to recruit players from the amateur ranks.

The 1933 season may well have been a "watershed" season in Victoria and indeed Australia. Until that time lacrosse had developed steadily. There were signs that support for it was beginning to decline. This was partly because of the restrictions of the Depression. The Government had imposed high tariffs on a wide range of imports, among which was sporting material. This meant that lacrosse gear, for which there was no local supplier, became expensive. The encouragement of junior players became more difficult. The propagation of the game among the schools had been a source of strength, particularly in Victoria and Western Australia, and this activity must be reduced. The next two years would require faith, and perseverance among supporters of lacrosse. Administrators would need to exercise the most careful wisdom to bring the game through the difficult times.

It seems that by 1934 lacrosse in Australia had survived the worst of the Depression. There were still problems, principally concerned with carrying the game to new recruits. High duties were still levied on the importation of lacrosse material. There were world rumblings that perhaps might have been a greater cause for anxiety, but in 1934 they were unheeded. For instance, in 1934 illustrations appeared in The Australasian which included photographs of Adolf Hitler and General Goering. A photograph of the launching of the first pocket battleship appeared, and mention was made of the Sudetenland (This is the name of the northern, southern and western of the former Czechoslovakia which were primarily occupied by Sudeten Germans). At that time people in Australia, and indeed in most of the world, paid little attention. They had their anxieties closer to home. Folk were uninterested in sights they did not wish to see and sounds they did not wish to hear.

So far as the future of lacrosse in Australia was concerned, there was quiet optimism. In Victoria 62 teams were entered in the pennant competitions. Three new clubs were admitted to the competition, Preston, Wattle Park and Footscray Technical School Old Boys. The Australian Lacrosse Council shared this optimism. As well as considering matters at home, it was conscious of developments abroad. The first evidence of this was the announcement at a special meeting that Australia had been granted affiliation with the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse.

The Council had begun negotiations with the Lacrosse Association of British Columbia concerning the possibility of a team from their association visiting Australia on a guarantee of all expenses of the team being paid while the team was in Australia.

The Council received a request from the promoters of professional box-lacrosse in America to sanction a tour of the Commonwealth by a team of Red Indians. There were no doubt sentimental reasons why the Council might encourage such a tour, but in view of the uncompromising attitude they took in respect to amateur sport, the Council decided that they would prefer not to be associated with a professional tour, and they took no action.

However, negotiations were continued on the question of guarantees and terms required by the Inter-Collegiate Association of the United States for a visit to Australia by a representative university team.

An invitation was received from the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse for Australia to be represented at the Berlin Olympic Games. With considerable regret the Australian Council refused this invitation for financial reasons. Undoubtedly, Australian lacrosse administrators were becoming more involved in international affairs.

Among the duties of the Australian Lacrosse Council now was the responsibility of being the interstate arbiter on the rules of the game. One of the situations on which they were asked for a ruling was the situation of a player who was awarded a free throw as the result of a foul which occurred just before the bell sounded for the end of a quarter. In 1934 a new rule was adopted giving a player in such a circumstance the right to exercise his free throw if he so desired.

It had long been the rule in lacrosse for the opponent of a player who has had to leave the field through injury also to cease to play. Now the question arose as to what should be done if a player could no longer take part in the game because he had hopelessly damaged his stick. The ruling of the Australian Council was that such a player and his opponent should both leave the field.

At the interstate level it seemed that lacrosse was prospering. The collapse of lacrosse in New South Wales had been averted. The Victorian association had received an invitation from Queensland to send a team to Brisbane that year, which they had accepted. They had also consented to that team also playing in New South Wales. The Queensland game, though it was played in very bad weather, provided much interest. Queensland led at half time by 7 goals to 6, but Victoria eventually won by 11 goals to 7. As was expected, the Victorians won in Sydney, but the Victorians were surprised by the vigour and tenacity of the New South Wales team. All agreed that the visit of the Victorian team to the northern states had done much to arouse interest in the game in Queensland and New South Wales.

The annual interstate game between Victoria and South Australia was played at the Malvern Cricket Ground. A good attendance watched an excellent game, but Victoria won comfortably by 25 goals to 11. This was the greatest number of goals thrown in an interstate match to that time. The result was not so much due to a difference in the individual skills of the players as to the greater effectiveness of the Victorian tactics. The stickwork of both teams was excellent, with brilliant passing and catching. The pace was fast throughout. The South Australians kept the game open, which made it a fine spectacle, but from a match-winning point of view these tactics were ineffective.

In Tasmania there was developing interest. A team from the Williamstown club, under the guidance of the Hon. secretary of the Victorian Association, Mr. A.J. Fowler, visited Launceston, Capt. J.H. Fearon, the President of the Williamstown club having undertaken to bear the expenses. The visit was successful, and highly appreciated by lacrosse supporters in Tasmania.

In Western Australia, support for lacrosse was strong. The annual report for the state for the season of 1934 stated that there were 10 clubs in Western Australia. Twenty teams were entered for competition, and there were 308 registered players. The Western Australian association had organised a series of 6 - a - side matches played on the Perth Esplanade. These had attracted a large following. The Western Australian association had invited a team from Victoria to visit their state in 1934, but the Victorians, already committed to the northern tour, felt that they could not that season find the money for a tour to the West. It was hoped that a Victorian visit would take place in 1935. Western Australian documents reveal that the Australian Lacrosse Council had decided that the all states carnival should be held in South Australia in 1936, Brisbane in 1939 and Perth in 1942.

A social event in Western Australia, possibly indicating good things to come, was the entertainment at a dinner by five lady lacrosseurs. They were members of the team of English lady cricketers who were that season touring Australia. The dinner was attended by 70 members of the Western Australian Lacrosse Association members.

Financially the position of clubs in Western Australia was healthy. The balance of club dues owing to the association was the lowest it had been for years.

There was lively interest in lacrosse in Ballarat. An association of four clubs attracted a lively following. The legacy club from Melbourne played a team from Ballarat on 2 June.

Some friction was developing within the Victorian Lacrosse Association. The source of the trouble was a degree of ill-feeling between district based and institution based clubs. Some district clubs felt that Institution based clubs did not do their share of recruitment of young players. To remedy this, a strong move was made to force any club with a senior team also to have a junior division. This attack was levelled against such institutional clubs as M.C.C and Powerhouse. District clubs felt that players they had recruited, and developed to a high standard were being transferred to Institutional clubs. Examples were Jim Lake, to M.C.C from Fitzroy, and Heseltine from M.H.S.O.B to Powerhouse. There was also the situation when a school encouraging lacrosse required the services of one of their schoolboys for the school rather than the district club. It was felt that the need for clarification of clearance rules was urgent. Nevertheless, three seasons were to pass before the problems were resolved.

An indication of the vigorous nature of, at any rate some, lacrosse was shown when the Victorian Lacrosse Association undertook to arrange for the presence of a St. John's Ambulance man at senior matches. It was observed that, when play was fast and hard, sometimes players were struck with sticks. Injuries being suffered by players sometimes needed more skilled treatment than colleagues or trainers could provide. The Victorian Lacrosse Association undertook to arrange for the St. John's Ambulance officer to attend matches and provide a suitable first aid kit.

The 1934 season was one of consolidation than new developments. Though progress was made, circumstances outside the authority of state associations and the Australian Council prevented advances into new areas. Of these the most significant was the high cost of importing sticks from Canada. Although attempts were made to manufacture suitable sticks in Australia, none had as yet been found satisfactory. Appeals to the Federal Government by the Australian Lacrosse Council had been ineffective, and the expense of providing new clubs and schoolboys with material was high.

It would seem that by 1935 lacrosse had re-established itself as a popular amateur sport. There were problems confronting the associations of the various states, but none of these seemed insuperable. What the game really needed now was some sort of stimulus which might reveal new directions and revitalise the attitude of supporters and players. Thus, the time was ripe for staging something unusual, such as a visit from a team from another country. Interstate games were all very well, and were successfully conducted, but it may have been a little discouraging for some states to be unable to break the dominance that Victoria had exerted over the sport. Some sort of international contest which brings into being a representative Australian team, and reawakens the Commonwealth wide view of the game was sorely needed. The Australian Lacrosse Association was aware of this need, and continued with its negotiations for the visit of a team from a Canadian amateur association, or a representative one from the American universities. It is likely that their approach lacked real faith, and that they found the financial risks too daunting to make a firm commitment. They needed an entrepreneur of the quality of Major Wardill, secretary in the old days of the Melbourne Cricket Club, who had been largely responsible for the successful promotion of the 1907 Canadian tour. No doubt the Australian Lacrosse Council saw the need for a visit to Australia by the representatives of another country, but Australia just coming out of a severe depression was unlikely to take financial risks. They rejected the invitation to enter a team in the Berlin Olympic Games because of the cost in terms of money. While recognising the value in terms of such a venture in terms of world lacrosse, they felt that in terms of real finance it would be beyond their resources to send a team. Viewed from this

distance, the attempts to attract teams to Australia, or to take part in world lacrosse seem to have lacked conviction.

And they may have had good reason. It must be emphasised that in Australia lacrosse was firmly dedicated to amateurism. This meant that, apart from direct contributions the association had limited means of raising money. Few of the grounds on which lacrosse was played were enclosed, and so no gate money could be earned. Some interstate games were played on major sports arenas, and from them a certain amount of money could be earned; but such money as was raised in this way did not meet the cost of conducting interstate fixtures. Whatever the cause, the effect was unfortunate; no international visit was brought to finality.

With the limited publicity given to lacrosse at this time it is difficult to provide statistical evidence as to its welfare. However, there is enough information to make it clear that the game was being played in all states of the Commonwealth. The schism in New South Wales seemed to have been controlled. A Victorian team visited that state, accompanied by the President of the Victorian Lacrosse Association Capt. Fearon. The Victorians were surprised by the vigour and skill of the New South Wales players, and won the first of the two games by the narrow margin of 9 goals to 7. The second result was a little better from the Victorian point of view, but still close enough to show that the New South Wales players could play effective Lacrosse. Victoria won the game by 13 goals to 7. Captain Fearon presented a cup for the best player of the series. This distinction was awarded to R. Turnbull of New South Wales.

The main interstate thrust in 1935 from Victoria was westwards. A Victorian team visited Perth to play against the Western Australian association on 20 & 23 July.

The visitors were royally entertained in Perth, the principal social event being a "Meet the Visitors" gala dance held at the Y. A. L. Ballroom, with Roy Moyle's Western Australian Band.

The first game was a close contest, and it seemed that Victorian dominance of interstate lacrosse would continue when they won by 11 goals to 8. To the delight of the Western Australians the home team won the return game by 8 goals to 5. The game was reported as having been of a high standard, and both teams were congratulated on a brilliant performance. The trophies for outstanding individual performers were awarded to S. McCorkell (VIC), J. Mowbray (W. A) and A. Horner (W.A). As this was the first time in history that a Western Australian had beaten one from Victoria, the Western Australians looked forward to the approaching interstate carnival, to be held in Adelaide in 1936, with considerable optimism as to their chances of winning the coveted Garland-McHarg Cup.

This excellent result indicated that the Western Australian association was led by a vigorous committee. Their annual report was able to affirm that their association represented 9 clubs, contained 17 teams, drawn for 269 registered players. All engagements throughout the season had been fulfilled. The game was also being played on the Western Australia goldfields, and the newly-formed Western Goldfields Association had recruited a number of skilful young players.

It is evident that in Western Australia lacrosse was very much alive. We have little information from South Australia in 1935, but the fact that the Interstate match between South Australia and Victoria at the Hindmarsh Oval was attended by a large crowd indicates that lacrosse was retaining its support in South Australia. The game, too, was close, Victoria eventually winning by 14 goals to 13. This indicated that the carnival in 1936 would be a close contest.

In Victoria, though the game retained its popularity, undesirable features were becoming evident. In spite of its devotion to the amateur ideal, the determination to win at all costs even if it led to resorting to unsporting play seemed to be increasing. On 21 September, the report on the game between Malvern and Williamstown, which Malvern won by 13 goals to 6, was criticised as lacking sporting spirit. There were many spiteful incidents and much wild checking. The game was so unruly that, as the report stated, no referees could have controlled it. Most players showed lack of knowledge of the rules of the game or its ethics; or at least they showed a complete disregard for them.

Another example was reported which concerned the controversial substitute rule. As a result of what was declared "a glaring case", referees were instructed that it was their duty to inspect the nature of the injury to a player who desires to go off the field. Only when the player is totally incapacitated has he the right to take his placed man off with him.

This comment suggests that some teams were exploiting the equalising rule to counter a player who was clearly outclassing his opponent by making him leave the field with the defeated player who was retiring with a feigned injury.

It seems likely that Victoria was maintaining its supremacy, but at an unduly high price.

It is also likely that lacrosse generally was losing publicity through its stand over amateurism. In other sports professionalism was beginning to be able to pay for its place in the limelight. The 1936 Olympic Games made little pretence about amateurism. They dominated by politics and racial theories. In tennis, amateurism held a precarious domination, maintained by dubious subterfuges. In Victoria, amateur sports administrators tried to place their sand-bags against the flood, and lacrosse was admitted into the Victorian Amateur Sports Federation on 30 June 1935. This movement was devised so that amateur bodies could show a united front. Membership of the union meant that an amateur who forfeited his amateur status in one sport forfeited it automatically in all sports. It was a brave stand, but time would reveal that publicity tended to follow money. We can respect sportsmen who were prepared to remain true to their ideals.

The win-at-all-costs attitude creeping into lacrosse was not compatible with the ideals of amateurism, and it is further reflected in 1935 by the increasing number of serious injuries to players during club games.

Unfortunately, there is little archival material available for these important years. What there is may lead to surmises concerning developments and successes, but there is little precise data.

Adelaide was in the news during this season, for that city was to be the location for the triennial interstate carnival. The season, at any rate for two Adelaide clubs opened in a rather unusual way. In a C Grade match between St. Peter's Church (Glenelg) and East Torrens a monospar aeroplane flew low over the ground, and the pilot dropped the ball to start the match.

Another item of interest but perhaps of little importance was reported in Melbourne on 26 June 1936, which stated that St. Peter's, Glenelg had defeated University by 55 goals to nil, which was claimed as the record for Australia.

Such records might be better not kept, but it may indicate a falling off of interest among the universities. In Melbourne, the Melbourne Cricket Club lacrosse team defeated University by 18 goals to nil. Universities, with their continually changing populations may not be the safest criteria to judge the general condition of the game.

From such other indications as are to be found, it seems safe to say that the general situation in Victoria was healthy. The pennant competitions extended to F Grade, and there were also sections for Under 17 and Under 15 players. This indicates that the association was actively conscious of the desirability of attracting young players to the game.

The association in Ballarat also maintained its activity.

Support for the game had not reached the level it had enjoyed before the schism. That state did not enter a team in the Adelaide interstate carnival in 1936. Results from New South Wales pennant games were from time to time published in the Australasian, which on 15 May 1936 stated that the Eastern Suburbs club had lost its first game in three years, when Balmoral won the game by 20 goals to 2. Time would tell whether the problems in New South Wales had been solved, but at least there seemed to be a basis for a successful reorganisation.

In spite of the absence of a team from New South Wales, the interstate carnival in Adelaide in 1936 was brought to a successful conclusion, and South Australia fully earned the praise given to them by the competing states. Western Australia worked hard in their preparation, and were confident that they would put up a good show; which they did, but not good enough to give them custody of the coveted Garland-McHarg shield. Victoria defeated South Australia to become the undefeated champions. Western Australia distinguished itself by winning its first carnival game, when they defeated Queensland by 12 - 4 in a fine game, after which Boucault, who had played brilliantly for Queensland was found to have suffered two broken ribs

The Western Australia association felt that the 1936 season had been successful in that state. Though they had failed to reach the 20% increase rate desired by the Australian Lacrosse Council. they claimed good progress, still maintaining an association of 9 clubs, with 17 teams and a total of 283 registered players. In addition, the Eastern Goldfields association had affiliated with the Western Australian Lacrosse Association.

The shortage of American dollars, which then afflicted the whole Australian financial position, was one of the greatest obstacles to the progress of the game. Owing to the peculiar construction of the crosse few timbers were suitable for their construction, and no Australian timber would serve. This meant that either the crosses must be imported from Canada, or suitable timber must be obtained for them to be manufactured in Australia. Strong but unavailing appeals were made to the government without success. Because of the high tariff set upon imported sporting material, it became increasingly difficult for the various state associations to provide lacrosse material for the use of schoolboys.

In 1936 the Victorian Women's Amateur Lacrosse Association was formed. Games were centred around teams from the YWCA and Williamstown. By 1940, war time conditions again saw the game go into recession. Games were played every Sunday during the season at Albert Park.

The season of 1937 saw important developments in the administration of the game of lacrosse in Victoria.

It had been evident for some time that undue roughness was used in more and more games. It is possible that this was due to a certain antagonism between clubs, as well as to insufficient control being exercised over the use of violence inherent in male beings.

Whatever the reason, it is clear that a lively controversy existed between certain states or clubs. As a rough classification it may be observed that lacrosse clubs fell into three different categories: there were the district clubs, which had been established in many suburbs, and were named accordingly - Malvern, Williamstown, Coburg, Camberwell and so on: there were institutional clubs formed among the members of some previously existing organisation, Adult Deaf and Dumb, Powerhouse, the Army, the Melbourne Cricket Club; and there were clubs formed among some educational institutions, whose Old Boys, having perhaps learned the game at school, continued their association by forming a club among their past students. Among the educational clubs there were two special ones, The Melbourne University and the Melbourne Teachers College.

The Australian Lacrosse Council, conscious of the need for continual development of the sport, urged its constituent members to increase their enrolments by twenty per cent. This was no doubt a random figure, but it showed that the Council was aware of the need for increasing both player and public support for the game.

District clubs tried by such means as lay in their power to attract new players, some more successfully than others. The Malvern club had for many years been active in establishing the game in the schools of their district. Williamstown also worked diligently to attract young players, as to a greater or less degree did all district clubs. Without new enrolments from time to time district clubs would go out of existence.

Institutional clubs drew their recruits from the members of their institution. They did not need to nurture raw recruits to the same degree. Many district clubs felt that institutional clubs did not do their

share of active recruiting, but relied too heavily on players who had been brought into the game in the first place by district clubs, and their existence amounted to sheep-stealing.

The Melbourne Cricket Club came in for special attention at this time. In spite of its long association with lacrosse, and its having in the early days been influential in saving the game from extinction, its team was regarded with distrust and suspicion. The M.C.C fielded only one team, and it enjoyed more than average success. The M.C.C lacrosse section drew its recruits from club members and did little to bring new players into the game. To what extent the accusation of indifference to recruiting may be justified is uncertain; it is certain, however, that the M.C.C accepted 400 pamphlets on lacrosse provided by the association for distribution to its junior members (Executive Committee Minutes, 12 April 1937)

The educational Institutions presented a different problem. In the secondary schools it was a long established tradition that the school had the first call on the services of its boys if it needed them. The university and the teachers college similarly required the services of their undergraduates. Most lacrosse clubs seemed to accept this convention, though perhaps without enthusiasm, but it applied generally to all sports. The question was raised as to where players from university and teachers college teams should be transferred at the conclusion of their university courses. Thus we read in the minutes of the Permit Committee on 5 October 1936 a letter from the Melbourne High School Old Boys complaining that many of their players obtained permits to the teachers college and the university clubs. This was acceptable, but the M.H.S.O.B club felt that there was an injustice done when players who had been brought into the game in their institution were given, at the end of their courses permits to join clubs other than the M.H.S.O.B club. Though the letter was received from the M.H.S.O.B club, there were many other clubs with similar complaints. The issue was general enough to be taken seriously.

The position was not so simple as the administrators of old boys clubs believed. After completing their degrees and embarking on their professions, the new graduates might not find a return to their school club attractive. When they took up their positions they might find themselves in locations far from those in which they had lived when they were going to school. Furthermore, it might be limiting individuals rights if old students were denied the right to support the club of their choice. After all, a graduate left the university a very different person from the matriculant who had joined it four years previously. His social environment might be completely changed. The Permit Committee in response to this letter decided to take no action.

At the same meeting a letter was read from the Malvern Lacrosse Club. It voiced a criticism that players who had learnt the game at schools in the Malvern district, and sponsored by the Malvern Lacrosse Club, on attending the Melbourne High School were required to represent that school in Saturday competitions, and were not available to Malvern. On the surface it appeared to be a single case, but it would create a precedent which might be applied to the sporting policy of many schools. Evidently the question had been raised before; for the Committee supported the "Gentleman's agreement" between the sportsmaster of the Melbourne High School and the association that if a player who attends Melbourne High School is claimed by the school within six months of his coming to the school, permits to play with the school will be granted even if the district club objects; this arrangement to be affirmed and applied to all schools where lacrosse is played, provided that the team consists wholly of boys from the school.

It may be noted that Melbourne High School at that time was something of an elite school, whose students were drawn from the more academically gifted scholars from suburban high schools. The question of permits to play with Melbourne High School teams affected several district clubs, for whom the Malvern Club acted as a spokesman.

This led to a consideration of permit regulations generally. It was immediately made clear that it was not within the province of the Permit Committee to make rules concerning permits and transfers. The duty of the Permit Committee was to apply the rules formulated by the General Committee. The Hon. Secretary made this point clear to the meeting, and he indicated that the existing rules remained in

operation until the General Committee altered or amended them. The best the Permit Committee could do was to present suggestions for the consideration of the General Committee.

Eventually the following suggestions were presented to the General Committee of Victoria as a report from the Permit Committee to the General Committee.

REPORT OF THE PERMIT COMMITTEE

Gentlemen,

A special meeting of the Permit Committee was held on 30 October 1936, at 8p.m to deal with the several matters following : -

Record System

It was decided to adopt a system of card records to show the permit history of each player, to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

M.H.S.O.B PLAYERS GOING TO TEACHER'S COLLEGE

The letter from the M.H.S.O.B pointing out that players given a permit from their club to play with university and teacher's college after leaving those institutions frequently went to other clubs, was considered.

The committee is of the opinion and recommends that a player who has learnt the game at a high or technical school and who has been granted a permit from an old boys club attached to such a school to play with the teacher's college to any club other than such old boy's club unless the application is approved by such old boy's club.

Owing to the fact that the university is in the "A" section and the M.H.S.O.B is not, the Committee does not think any action should be taken with regard to university players

MEMBERS OF A DISTRICT CLUB GOING TO A HIGH SCHOOL

A letter from the Malvern club pointing out the position where players were taught the game in state school teams sponsored by their club on attending Melbourne High School were required to play with such school in Saturday competitions, was considered by the Committee.

The Committee is of the opinion and recommends that the "Gentlemen's Agreement" entered into between the association and the Sports Master of the Melbourne High School some years ago to the effect that if a player of a district club who attends the high school is claimed by the school within six months of his commencing school, a permit will be granted even if opposed by the district club - be affirmed and applied to all schools where lacrosse is played, subject to the modification that a player can only play with a team that consists wholly of pupils of the school."

PERMIT REGULATIONS

The question of permit regulations was considered and it was resolved: "That this Committee is of the opinion and recommends that the General Committee should have power to make regulations relating to permits, which remain in force until altered or amended by the General Committee from time to time: that such regulations should be binding on the Permit Committee in dealing with applications for permits and on the Investigations Committee in hearing appeals from decisions of the Permit Committee: and that the Permit Committee approves and recommends the adoption of the attached proposed regulations.

The meeting was then adjourned and the adjourned meeting was held on 19 October, 1936, when the following further matters were dealt with.

PERMIT RULES

The Committee considered various rules relating to permits, and the following resolutions were passed:

1. "That it be recommended to the General Committee that rule 35 be amended by the addition of the following provisions: via - 'Provided that when a permit to play in a lower section has been granted it shall remain in force until a player has played three matches in a higher section in that season or the ensuing seasons: after having played such three matches the player shall not again play in the lower section without a further permit, and when a second permit after every match played in the higher section in that season.'

2. "That it be recommended to the General Committee that the following words shall be added to Rule 34 viz:-'Subject to this rule, no person shall play as a substitute without the approval of the captain of the opposing side.'

The recommendations then went on to define the spheres of authority of the Permit Committee, and to deal with matters such as report cards and referees. These are matters of housekeeping, and not relevant to the situations that gave rise to friction between clubs. These controversial matters must have presented a serious threat to the stability and harmony of the Victorian Lacrosse Association. It all seems contrary to the spirit of amateurism, which the Victorian Lacrosse Association had fostered for so many years. One characteristic of an amateur sport is that the player may enjoy his activity in the company of his choice.

But it is doubtful if this sectional jealousy was the whole cause of the rough play which was becoming all too a commonplace in Victorian lacrosse. On 12 July 1937 a request was made of the Executive Committee at their meeting to consider clarifying the use of the body-check. There must have been cases of players trespassing over that line for the matter.

Then there was an incident in which a physical assault on a referee was brought to the notice of the Committee. A letter was received from Mr. T. G. Dimpson presenting a bill for medical and dental expenses incurred through injuries suffered in a game between the Adult Deaf and Dumb club and Coburg. Even allowing for the low flash-point of the emotions of some deaf and dumb players, for a referee to be physically assaulted by a player was disgraceful, and provided a dramatic piece of evidence of the sinking standards of ethical behaviour now to be seen in Victorian lacrosse.

In Victoria at least there was a feeling that some of the playing rules needed alteration. In a newspaper cutting, undated, but probably 1937, mention is made of an experimental lacrosse match designed to test proposed new rules. The match was played between the Hartwell and the Glen Iris clubs. The view was expressed that the proposed rules had much to commend them. Three proposed changes are mentioned: one was to have an outer ring into which players might not enter until the centres had cleared the ball. It was felt that this rule made the game a much better spectacle. It seemed to give players better chances to display skilful stickwork and to accelerate the speed of the game. This device to remove the unseemly crowded play at the centre preceded a similar decision by the Victorian Football League by about fifty years. A second alteration involved an off-side rule. No details are given of the new proposal, but the report stated that the rule caused confusion among the players. A third new arrangement was the shortening of the playing field. This matter had already been discussed, and had not been endorsed by other states, but this time it was associated with a reduction in the number of players in a side to ten. This seemed in the trial game to encourage fast play and attractive stickwork. Two more trial matches had been arranged to take place before the meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council, which in 1937 was to be held in Melbourne.

The traditional interstate match against South Australia was to take place in Melbourne in 1937. There seemed to have been innovations in the means of gaining publicity made possible through new technology and social conditions. The motor-car was becoming a universal means of transport, and a supply of car-stickers were obtained and made available to all car-owners who would display them. This is the first time that using the back of a car as a bill-board had been tried, at least as far as the

records of the Victorian Lacrosse Association was concerned, though no doubt the practice was beginning to be common place in the internal-combustion-age society. The historic aspect of the publicity arrangements was the attempt to make use of the broadcasting medium, the beginning of the electronic communications era. The Victorian Lacrosse Association negotiated with the Australian Broadcasting Commission to have the game broadcast by radio. This does not mean that lacrosse pioneered broadcasts of games. These were already successfully made for cricket, football and tennis; but it does suggest that the Victorian Lacrosse Association was up with its times. In the end, the Broadcasting Commission agreed to broadcast scores of the interstate match from time to time.

Another event important in the history of lacrosse in Victoria is revealed in a newspaper cutting of unknown origin, but dated 1937, which reported the first Lacrosse match played by women in Victoria. The Williamstown Club had during the previous season had the distinction of having won four premierships. Among the celebrations was a lacrosse match played by members of the Young Women's Christian Association. Under the supervision of Miss Nell Rawlings, the physical director of the Y.M.C.A., twenty girls practised for the game. This was a historic occasion for the Y.M.C.A. and for the game of lacrosse in Victoria.

The Victorian Lacrosse Association continued to encourage the game in other states. As well as the keenly contested interstate match against South Australia the Victorian association sent a team to New South Wales. This team was to consist of players from "B" and "C" Grades, and was to be accompanied by a manager. An invitation was received from Queensland to send a team there, but, with the South Australian match and the team visiting New South Wales, the Victorian felt that its resources were sufficiently strained. However, they arranged for Mr. Balmer to take a volunteer team to Queensland. An invitation was sent to Queensland to send a team to Victoria in 1938.

Encouragement was given to the enthusiasts for the game in Ballarat. It was arranged that any team playing Ballarat should not be required to pay fees for umpires, and that Ballarat should be exempt from all charges except the affiliation fee of 10/6.

The Australian Lacrosse Council continued to be active. The provision of equipment for new clubs was still expensive, and no doubt discouraged many potential young players. The Council entered into negotiations with the Federal Government to reduce the tariffs on the importation of lacrosse material, much of which could not be made in Australia, but without result. The Council had been in touch with Lally's factory in Canada, which produced most of the lacrosse balls used in Australia, and the Council entered into negotiations with the Dunlop Rubber Company, with good effect.

It seems that interest in lacrosse in the mainland states remained lively, though the increase in the number of players may have disappointed the Council. Interstate games between Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland showed that in those states the associations were functioning effectively. Geographical considerations made interstate games difficult to arrange between Western Australia and the eastern states. The annual report of the Western Australian Association states that there was an increase of four teams in 1937, and the number of active players rose to 341, an increase of 58 on the previous season. The report also states that a team from South Australia visited Western Australia, and played matches on 30 July and 2 August. The Western Australians won the first game convincingly by 20 goals to 6 and the second by 19 to 7. There is therefore no doubt that lacrosse players in Western Australia enjoyed a successful season in 1937.

The season of 1938 seems to have been one of consolidation rather than one of vigorous development. In Victoria 53 teams were entered in sections A to F. In the Under 17 section there were 6 teams, and in the Under 15 three teams. The "F" Section was left incomplete to allow for the accommodation of further entries. The Ballarat team had withdrawn from the "B" Section. It would seem that the numbers of players had not diminished, even if the increase was not great.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee from which the above figures are given, on 29 March 1938, it was decided to hold a gymkhana during the season. Olympic Park was booked as the venue for the gymkhana, which was to be held on the King's Birthday public holiday. The programme would consist of: -

six a side matches
a relay race:
throwing the ball competitions;
efficiency parade;
a goal throwing contest'

and a race of 120 yards with sticks, and picking up the ball.

Participation in the gymkhana was to be compulsory. Felt pennants were to be awarded to winners in all sections of the gymkhana. It appeared that fund-raising and social activities were organised during the season.

At the interstate level, Victoria was committed to sending a team to South Australia for the annual interstate match against that state. A match against New South Wales was to be played in Victoria at the same time, for which an attractive social programme was drawn up. From this we may deduce that interest in lacrosse in New South Wales was being revived.

The same cautious optimism may be expressed concerning lacrosse in Western Australia. The annual report of the Western Australian Lacrosse Association stated that 9 clubs belonged to the association, and had entered 22 teams for pennant competition. This was an improvement on the previous season. As in Victoria the Western Australian association had prevailed upon the radio station 6 WF to broadcast scores of the Saturday matches. They had also instituted a series of broadcast talks on Friday evenings from the same station. From the limited evidence available, we may conclude that lacrosse was still vigorous in outlook and strong in practice.

As all the world knows, the year 1939 was one of the most fateful in the history of mankind. Little of the global turmoil caused by the Second World War seems at first to have been reflected in the world of Australian lacrosse.

This was the year when the Interstate carnival for the Championship of Australia, and the custodianship of the Garland-McHarg Cup, was to be held in Queensland. All the mainland teams had entered teams. Keen competition was anticipated: there was the traditional rivalry between Victoria and South Australia; the laws of astronomy were being defied, and a new star was rising in the West. Western Australia, having beaten South Australia in their recent interstate matches, felt confident about their chances against Victoria, and the rest of the Commonwealth. The Western Australian contingent of 26 lacrosseurs was the largest to travel to Queensland.

In Victoria things were active too. It was the year of the jubilee of lacrosse in Victoria. A social Committee was appointed to organise a ball, and a jubilee badge was to be struck. This was not the year when Victoria was likely to relinquish the premiership of the Commonwealth.

Accordingly, arrangements were made by Mr. Littledyke, Hon. Secretary of the Queensland Association for accommodation for the Victorian team in Brisbane for the carnival. The Victorian association undertook to pay the rail fare (2nd class) to Brisbane, but members of the team would pay their own hotel and incidental expenses. The team was to leave by the "Spirit of Progress" at 6.30p.m on 11 July, arriving at Brisbane the following Thursday afternoon.

The Australian Lacrosse Council would meet during the carnival, and the main item on the agenda was to discuss the financing of interstate visits. There seemed at this time to be little perturbation concerning affairs overseas.

The carnival was carried out successfully with the following results:

Vic.	d.	W.A.	10 - 6
Vic.	d.	S.A.	15- 6
Vic.	d.	Q.	24- 10
Vic.	d.	N.S.W.	28- 4
W.A.	d.	S.A.	17- 9
W.A.	d.	N.S.W.	20- 8

W.A.	d.	Q.	15-	10
S.A.	d.	Q.	11-	4
S.A.	d.	N.S.W.	40-	3
Q.	d.	N.S.W.	31-	6

Thus Victoria retained its position as the champion state, and received the Garland-McHarg Cup.

During their deliberations in Queensland, the Australian Lacrosse Council put forward a scheme of regular interstate visits, and also suggested that the carnival should be held every two rather than every three years.

In Western Australia the 1939 annual report stated that the number of active players had risen from 357 to 417.

The Victorian association received a letter from the South Australian association indicating that the parents of the late Robert Symonds, who had been accidentally killed, wished to donate a perpetual trophy in his memory for interstate games between South Australia and Victoria.

It would seem that the game of lacrosse was little affected by the war, and that the administration of lacrosse was still looking at distant horizons.

In 1940 the sad truths of the war were becoming apparent. The Western Australian association reported a decrease in membership, which, though not large, indicated troubled conditions. They also reported that 54 members of their association had joined the armed forces in the A.I.F.; 43 members had joined the R.A.A.F.; and 1 had joined the Indian Army. This meant that 111 members of the association were no longer available. One hundred and eleven is a considerable proportion of the four hundred and seventeen registered the previous season. Though no figures are available for other states, it is reasonable to assume that the same reduction by about a quarter in the number of players unavailable was the situation in other states. It was clear that to maintain lacrosse activities and development at the previous rate would be impossible. This is shown by the decision of the Australian Lacrosse Council to defer discussion of the interstate carnival and of interstate matches until the cessation of hostilities.

The South Australian association wrote to the Victorian association and suggested that the interstate matches between the two states should be cancelled, a decision with which the Victorian association reluctantly concurred.

Specific information concerning the next years is limited. No annual reports were issued by the Western Australian association between 1941 and 1946.

The depletion in the number of players available for selection was less sudden than it had been in 1914. The problem for the British Government during the first year of the war was not so much one of men but of supplies. In Australia new industries sprang up in connection with munitions and equipment. It soon became evident that the Australian Government would need to supply its own basic weapons and equipment. The greatest need in England was food. Consequently a scheme of projected occupations was drawn up which ensured that men of special expertise in certain areas were placed in the category of reserved occupations, and were prevented from enlisting. Thus a core at least of lacrosse players remained available. Many, younger men, and potential lacrosse players offered their services to the Royal Australian Air Force, and were absorbed into the Empire Air Training Scheme. Others were accepted for the Royal Australian Navy. The Australian Imperial Forces absorbed many more, but no greater numbers were at first accepted simply because the Australian Government did not have the weapons to train them.

Thus the Victorian association was able to carry on for a little longer, though at a reduced scale. In the minutes of the Executive Committee, 11 April 1940, we observe that 33 teams were entered in Sections A, B, C, and D. A new terminology occurs in the minutes in that six teams were entered in the north zone, and eight in a south zone. All this suggests a considerable reduction in the number

of players available. The circumstance is further emphasised by the receipt of a letter from that loyal patron of lacrosse, Captain Fearon, that teams should be reduced to ten players. At the Executive Committee meeting fixtures were discussed, and the decision was made that the fixtures should be adhered to as long as possible.

Not only was there difficulty in finding players, but the circumstances of war also reduced the number of effective administrators. At the Executive Committee meeting held on 15 July 1940 "it was resolved that all officers of the association of military or government work be exempted from automatic disqualification through non-attendance at association meetings".

The next meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 2 February 1941, a hiatus of six months. At the next meeting, 9 April 1941, the gradings for the teams entered for competition was announced. It was revealed that 34 teams were entered in sections A, B, C, D and E. Five teams were entered in the Under 16 competition. The term "zoned teams" does not appear. Clearly, the number of available players was falling.

Subsequent minutes indicate that the early allocation of teams might have been optimistic. At the meeting of the Victorian Executive Committee on 20 April 1942, a lapse of several months, it was decided that there should be two competitions only, players Under 16 on 16 May and players under 18 on 16 May. It was also resolved that referees for the season be voluntary. No affiliation or registration fees would be charged, but clubs should be levied at the rate of sixpence per player per month to cover association expenses.

Another side-effect of the war was the resolution that matches should commence at 2.45p.m. and that quarter times should be a maximum of twenty minutes to limit travelling in the blackout. No doubt clothing rationing and petrol rationing increased the difficulties of playing premiership games.

The association decided to review its insurance policies, and in doing so discovered that the Garland-McHarg trophy would be uninsurable under war damage policies. The Executive Committee therefore decided to place it in the E.S. & A. Bank's safe deposit, and to inform the Australian Lacrosse Council of the step.

The Preston Club stated at this meeting that it now had only twelve players available for friendly games. At last the situation had deteriorated to the extent that at the Executive Committee meeting held on 8 June 1942, it was considered "essential if practical to arrange senior friendly games to keep the game alive". The bleak likelihood of the demise of the game in Victoria gravely concerned the Executive Committee, and Mr. Beattie gave notice that at the next meeting the continuity of lacrosse into 1943 should be discussed.

At the meeting of the Victorian Executive Committee held on 25 November 1942 the committee came to the conclusion that three factors controlled the functioning of lacrosse in 1943:

1. the procurement of lacrosse balls
2. the procurement of lacrosse sticks
3. the availability of players

It was felt that there was a sufficient supply of lacrosse balls to meet the demands of the 1943 season.

The problem of sticks was more difficult. It was impossible to import sticks, and, unless a satisfactory Australian made article became available, the future of the game was gloomy. We may infer that the Queensland-made stick referred to earlier had not proved satisfactory. To examine the possibilities of finding a suitable Australian wood, Mr. Chinner, of the M.C.C., and a member of the Forests Commission, undertook to make enquires into the suitability of Australian wood. Mr. Boykett was to be asked to carry out similar enquiries into suitable plastic materials.

With regard to players in Victoria, it was reported that the Caulfield club could muster two teams, Old Trinity 1 team, M.H.S.O.B 2 teams, U.H.S.O.B. 1 team, and Malvern 1 team. It therefore seemed possible that informal games could be carried out. It was suggested that help be offered to schools

to encourage the game among their students, so that at least a nucleus of players would be available to resuscitate the game when the war was over.

There are no records available for 1943 and 1944.

1945 was one of the most momentous in the whole history of mankind. Two explosions that completely devastated two cities brought in a new era to what humanity is pleased to call civilisation. It heralded technologies unimagined before. It revolutionised transport, and enabled men to circle the globe in only a little more time than could Puck in his *Midsummer Night's Dream*. It saw revolutions in morals and ethics. It introduced new and deadly diseases. It introduced an era when material gain was the sole incentive for living. Tennis, athletics, and other sports, previously practised by at least a nominal amateurs, now became unashamedly professional. Tennis commentators, for instance, now rate the quality of players by the amount of money they have earned during a season. The problems facing militantly amateur sports, such as lacrosse in Australia, were far deeper than material considerations such as the provision of equipment. In the home of lacrosse, Canada, and in its neighbouring region of the United States of America, lacrosse had already succumbed to professionalism, though there were still islands of amateurism, such as the American collegiate competitions. In Australia, old players were returning from their service in the armed forces gradually even before the end of 1945. At the end of the war a steady stream of service-men, emaciated to skeletons, were returning from their barbaric captivity. New players must be recruited. Post-war lacrosse in Australia would need courage, wisdom, foresight, and even self-sacrifice if the game was to resume its pre-war distinction.

Lacrosse in Victoria was, at the beginning of 1945, in a critical situation. The Committee of Management, appointed as a temporary and makeshift organisation, whose terms of reference were to try to keep the game alive during the war, had worked hard, and with some success to do so. Lacrosse was still actively played, mainly in schools; but also on an informal, week to week basis, friendly games were played by more senior players, depending on who was available. The amount of available equipment was dwindling. No importation of lacrosse sticks were permitted during the war, and no company could make lacrosse balls. Harry Hopman, in his weekly sport commentary in "The Herald" stated that at least 1,500 men from the members of lacrosse clubs had voluntarily enlisted in one or other of the Armed Forces. This does not include those men drafted into militia units, or sent abroad on administrative duties, or taken into special occupations. Many experienced administrators were no longer available, and loyal supporters had died. The Melbourne "Argus" reported the death of that great sportsman and pioneer of lacrosse, Frank Delves; the Melbourne "Herald" announced the death of another great sportsman and devoted lacrosse administrator, Captain J. H. Fearon, (10 August 1944). From the limited information available, we may calculate that 6 or possibly 8 clubs were still in existence in 1943. It appears that in 1944 there were ten clubs still active. It would need much more faith and devoted work to revive interest in the game, and to bring the standard of play to its pre-war excellence.

The first step in 1945 was to restore the administration to its pre-war constitution. The interim Management Committee instructed its secretary to call an annual general meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association at which it would recommend that the minute of 29th March 1943 be rescinded, thus disbanding the Management Committee. The secretary was instructed to call an annual meeting to be attended by all members of the Victorian Lacrosse Association eligible in 1939 or later. At the meeting, the Management Committee showed the value of its stewardship when it provided its financial statement. This showed that £41-8-1 was to the association's credit in bank credits; there was 10/- cash in hand, £40-0-0 war savings certificates at cost, a Commonwealth bond of £20 and contributions to the stick fund of £48-0-0. Thus there was a sum of about £150 available to the reforming Victorian Lacrosse Association.

The annual report for the season 1945 showed guarded optimism. It stated that there had been 20 clubs playing during the season, an increase of 6 over 1944.

It is pleasing to note that many of the best aspects of Victorian lacrosse were being revived. On the King's Birthday holiday a six-a-side competition was held. There was also evidence of the

resurgence of lacrosse in other states. The inter-university contests between Melbourne and Adelaide were revived when a team from the Melbourne University visited Adelaide, where, after a close game, it beat the Adelaide team by 12 goals to 10. While the team was there a combined university team played against a representative team of South Australian association. The association team won by 12 goals to 8. The result is of less significance than the clear evidence that the South Australian lacrosse was once more active. The Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institute sent a team to Adelaide to play a game against the South Australian Institution. The combined universities team played a match against a combined Deaf and Dumb Institution team, which the university won by 11 goals to 10. It was encouraging to lacrosse enthusiasts in Melbourne to know that their highly respected adversaries in South Australia were also rebuilding so successfully.

There was also a vigorous resurgence of the game in Western Australia, engendered by a vigorous and wise administration. The war had reduced senior participation almost to nominal activity, and at the annual meeting of the Western Australian Lacrosse Association in 1945 it was decided to restrict official fixtures to juniors. Four clubs, Subiaco, Police Boys, Midlands and Wembley would field teams

The secretary of the Western Australian Lacrosse Association had said that his state had suffered badly because of the war. When war was declared in 1939 there were about 400 playing members; in 1945 the number had fallen to about 50. He regretted that those members who had enlisted had little opportunity to keep up with the game. Those who could continue to play had never lost interest. These were nearly all boys, and he attributed the continuing interest in the game to the boys themselves, the average age of players in 1945 being 16 or 17. He was optimistic that when old players started returning from the forces, even if they had lost some "touch" and dexterity, their knowledge of technique and tactics would make them excellent coaches. He had faith that interstate lacrosse would be resumed after the war. The state association would work hard to rebuild the game, for Western Australia was due to host the next all-states carnival in 1947.

The war having come to an end in 1945, the next season would be critical to the revival of the sport. The first committee meeting of the association justified their optimism. There was a full attendance of delegates. All clubs reported having had excellent annual meetings. It appeared that, the university being likely to field a team, every club in operation at the beginning of the war would be represented in the 1946 season. The number of teams fielded would be 18 or 20. There would be 10 senior teams. This number was only 6 less than the previous highest total.

The Western Australian association were optimistic enough to approach the Australian Lacrosse Council for permission to stage the all states carnival in 1947. They were confident that South Australia and Victoria would send teams, and they believed that, as the Queensland association was reforming they might also be represented.

The Australian Lacrosse Council shared the faith of the Western Australians, and gave the required permission. It takes time to arrange such important events. Steps were taken to give a date fixed, which would probably be at the end of August and the beginning of September.

The greatest material difficulty at this time was the provision of sticks and balls for the anticipated inflow of new players. The South Australian association stated that the number of their players serving in the forces had risen to 420, of whom 46 had lost their lives. This was a sad depletion of players, but signs of activity were already evident. "The Advertiser" stated that 7 clubs had registered for the premiership competition, and that, as the number of players increased, the number in teams would be increased from 10 to the traditional 12.

There is little information concerning lacrosse in New South Wales, but there were reports that the New South Wales association was being re-established. As tangible evidence, we may note that the vice-presidents of the Australian Lacrosse Council were gentlemen one from Queensland and one from New South Wales. If the game was revived in those states, as everyone hoped it would be, the demand for sticks, balls and other equipment became more and more urgent.

For purposes of identification and classification, these pages are numbered according to seasons, the matters they deal with frequently overlap individual seasons, and the matter of obtaining equipment for the re-establishment of lacrosse is one of those matters.

We must understand that lacrosse players were by no means alone in this difficulty. After the war there were all sorts of shortages of things more essential to living than games. Shipping was very much in demand. Overseas credits also were stretched almost to their limits. Australian factories had not yet completely reverted to civilian demands after having been devoted to wartime necessities for so long. At the end of the war the only place from which lacrosse sticks could be obtained was Canada, and that required dollar currency.

The Australian Lacrosse Council, and the state associations had done all they could to meet the difficulty. You will remember that the Victorian Lacrosse Association had instituted enquiries as to whether any Australian timbers would be suitable for making lacrosse sticks, without success. They had, with the support of the South Australian association, encouraged research into the possibility of using plastic materials, but no suitable substitute for Canadian hickory had been found. And even hickory was in demand for other essential uses; the best axe-handles, and tool handles in general, were made of hickory. The Australian Lacrosse Council, after negotiations with the Commonwealth Government, was able to approach the Canadian manufacturers, and were able to state that they expected a shipment of sticks early in May.

It would appear that the sticks being imported were only the wooden frames, and that the nets must be produced in Australia. At the Executive Committee meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, the committee learned that gut was now available from local sources at the cost of 78 shillings per dozen hanks, each hank being about 21 feet.

It was also revealed that Alan, Henry & Co had 50 unstrung sticks for sale.

The report on lacrosse in the Adelaide Advertiser (6 July 1945) revealed another complication in the procurement of sticks. The Australian Lacrosse Council had asked Mr. Langdon Parsons, the East Torrens Captain, who was in America on business, to make enquiries concerning sticks. He had written to Mr. J. A. McConaghy, President of the British Columbia Association for advice. In reply he received this communication: "Perhaps you do not realise that in organised lacrosse throughout Canada the game is played indoors, and the stick is considerably smaller than those used to play outdoors". He went on to state that the Lally Company still manufactured some outdoor types for export to England and France for the use of lacrosse players in the Canadian and United States forces overseas".

Eventually the Executive Committee learned, as revealed in the minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 1946, that the shipment of lacrosse sticks sent from Canada had arrived in Melbourne, and were in store at R. Coldstream, of Flinders Lane.

At the Executive Committee meeting held on 25 November 1946 a communication was received from the Australian Lacrosse Council that the Dunlop Rubber Company would produce a limited number of balls, of which 10 gross had been allotted Victoria. It would seem that the situation regarding Lacrosse equipment was now almost under control.

The basis of all success in an association of sportsmen is the health of the normal week - to -week competitions played by the players supplying teams for their separated clubs. Without this foundation, no healthy or permanent development can occur. The position in Victoria was healthy, though still a little in a state of flux. Many old players wishing to resume their participation in the game were now not attached to an existing club. The Executive Committee therefore passed a motion to the effect that any player adrift from one of the 1941 clubs could apply for a permit to play with another club during the 1946 season. This having been resolved, eighteen clubs had registered with the association, and 37 teams had been entered in the various sections of the pennant competition, 10 in the "A" section, 9 in the "B", 11 in the "C", and 7 in the sixteen and under. Evidently some clubs had recruited well: Malvern had entered 5 teams and Caulfield 4.

The Victorian pennant competition was successfully carried out. It was significant that Malvern won the premierships in the "A", "B", and "C" divisions, and of the five teams entered by that club four reached the semi-finals. As the Melbourne "Herald" (23 September 1946) stated : "Much of the credit for the club's consistently high quality performances must go to the Secretary, Frank Lansbury, who is probably one of the most ardent devotees of the game in Victoria. Frank's motto is 'Catch them young and train them properly'. Recently he recruited 30 prospective players from one state school."

The success of the revival of lacrosse in the next few years would be due to this interest in young players, as was exhibited by Malvern and many other clubs in Victoria. The same could be said of clubs in the South Australian and the Western Australian associations.

Encouragement was given to the pursuit of excellence by clubs in general in the form of trophies for winning the respective sections. On 31 July 1946 the Executive Committee learned of the offer of a perpetual trophy to be known as the Stan Faull Memorial Trophy. The offer was made to perpetuate the memory of Pilot Officer Stanley Winter Faull, a member of the University High School Old Boys club, who was killed in action in air operations over northern Australia in 1942. It was decided to award this shield as perpetual trophy to the winners of the "B" section competition. The association itself presented a shield to commemorate those lacrosse players who had lost their lives during the war. The Zercho Shield already existed for competition among teams in the "C" section. Unfortunately, the whereabouts of the Zercho Shield were uncertain. The St. Kilda club had last won the "C" Grade in 1940 and 1941, but they stated that they have never received the trophy. The winners in 1939 had been the Sunshine club. It must have been run to earth at last for it was accepted on behalf of the Malvern club at the end of the season by Mr. Addison of Malvern. The first recipient of the Stan Faull Memorial Shield was also the Malvern club. on whose behalf it was accepted by Mr. T. Allington. Mr Alf Evans accepted the pennant for the "A" grade competition, also on behalf on the Malvern club.

Unfortunately, some old problems arose in connection with the behaviour of some pennant players in Victoria. On 27 May 1946 the referee of the match between Malvern and Old Trinity reported Addison (Malvern) for having struck Downe (Old Trinity). The charge was sustained, and Addison was stood down till after 8 June. On 25 September the Melbourne Technical College club was reprimanded over the behaviour of its members. An unusual case arose over a certain Mr. S. Pollard. He alleged that he as a spectator had been assaulted by one of the players at the match at Caulfield Park. He claimed damages and threatened to take legal action. The General Meeting on 25 September took the view that the association had no jurisdiction over spectators, and therefore could take no action. Mr. Pollard then placed the case before the Caulfield Council. The committee therefore sought legal advice regarding their position and that of the Caulfield Club. On the strength of that advice, the association decided to take no action. Mr. Pollard, incensed at the attitude of the association, then determined to take the matter up with the Caulfield Council. That Council then invited the V.L.A. to send representatives to a conference with their Parks and Gardens Committee. Mr. Balmer and Mr. McIntyre accepted this responsibility. The result was a request from the Caulfield Council that the Victorian Lacrosse Association should include in its rules some sort of protection for spectators from players. The matter was referred to the Rules Committee for action. The last reference to the matter was a request from the Caulfield Council that the association should amend its rules to embrace provisions for assault of spectators by players, as was alleged in the Pollard case. No information is given as to who actually carried out the assault, nor what action on Mr. Pollard's side provoked it. It was all very disturbing, but, even if it was one of those proverbial storms in tea-cups, it does seem that the behaviour of some lacrosse players at some matches left much to be desired.

This was in some contrast to the position in Western Australia, where the season was carried out without a single case being referred to their disciplinary committee.

Perhaps the most significant event of the 1946 season was the resumption of the annual interstate matches between Victoria and South Australia. The initiative had been made by Victoria, when at the Executive Committee meeting held on 30 April 1946 the secretary was directed to send an invitation to the South Australian association to send a team to Victoria to resume their old inter-state matches.

The South Australian association acted promptly, and their acceptance was read at the meeting on 27 May, setting 24 August as a suitable date.

The Committee at their meeting of 24 June set up the organisation to conduct this important fixture. Mr. Hugh Woods was appointed as liaison officer for the South Australian team. An entertainment committee was appointed, and taking out insurance against rain on the big day was considered. The programme of entertainment arranged consisted of a welcome to the visitors on their arrival at the Amateur Sports Club; on the Saturday evening they would attend the Tivoli Theatre, and on the Sunday there would be a motor trip to Ferntree Gully, at which the Victorians would provide the lunch.

The match took place at the Malvern Cricket Ground before, as the Melbourne Age reported, "one of the largest crowds seen at an inter-state game.." Because of the time that had elapsed since the last contest between the states, neither side knew much about the quality of their opponents, but both were confident, perhaps Victoria the more so, as it was forty years since they had been beaten at home. Nine years had passed since the last inter-state encounter. It proved to be an excellent match, with South Australia eventually winning by 14 goals to 11. This victory would provide a great stimulus to lacrosse in general, for South Australia was encouraged by the win, and Victoria became determined to regain their pre-war supremacy.

Other great things were just over the horizon. The Western Australian association had been granted leave to conduct the all states carnival in 1947. Though the details belong to the season of 1947, it may be noted that preparations needed to be made much in advance. A budget was drawn up which revealed that the Victorian association would need to raise about £200 of extra funds. Steps were immediately undertaken. Mr. W. Tickner, after having served lacrosse in Victoria so capably as treasurer, had to resign his position, as he had been transferred to the new University College at Mildura. Mr. J. Dobbie was elected to the position. A sum of £69-6-2 had already been raised towards the trip to Western Australia. The details of this momentous event belong to the season of 1947.

A further development was indicated, though as yet in a nebulous way, during the 1946 season. When Mr. Langdon Parsons had approached Mr. J. A. McGonaghy, president of the British Columbia Association, he had received valuable information concerning the procurement of lacrosse sticks, but in the letter he received in reply the following information was included. "I hold for safe-keeping," Mr. McGonaghy wrote, "The Lally lacrosse trophy, donated by Mr. Joe Lally, of Cornwall, Ontario, for international competition on a challenge basis. A team representing my province won it from a team representing the Inter-Collegiate Association of the United States in 1935, and successfully defended it against the same association in 1936. There has been no competition for it since that time, and I have been wondering whether there is enough resourcefulness and drive among the various Associations of England, United States, England and Canada to organise a world tournament to symbolize the return of peace to this war-torn world".

Thus it would seem that not only was lacrosse coming back to life in the states of the Commonwealth of Australia, but that lacrosseurs throughout the world were ready to pursue their game towards distant horizons.

There are no records in Victoria for 1947-54 although we do know the Surrey Park Lacrosse Club was formed in 1948 when the Box Hill and Wattle Park Lacrosse Clubs merged. The club took its name from the new home ground at Surrey Park in Box Hill.

It is easy to be critical about what appears to be slow progress, and the men who controlled the future of Lacrosse in the 1950's might well have been discouraged. But things must be weighed against their environment and times. When lacrosse in 1955 is viewed in this context, it must be accepted that even to maintain the existing state of things was no small success.

The economic aftermath of World War II had its effects. Though Australia was relatively rich against sterling, it was poor against the dollar. How much longer this imbalance would combine remained to

be seen, but its immediate effects, particularly in the acquisition of sticks and other lacrosse material, as we have already seen, delayed the resurgence of lacrosse as a major sport.

There were other elements. The 1950's were troublesome times. Student unrest was world-wide. More severe in some European countries, but disturbing enough in Australia. There was a general egoism which mocked the general discipline of team games and club loyalties. Young men's interests became ephemeral, flitting from one source of inactivity to another. They were suspicious of anything calling for permanence and personal commitments. One could not assess the effects of these influences without a comparative assessments of sporting activities in general. but it is likely that all sporting organisations were suffering in a similar way.

Then there was the advance of professionalism lacrosse steadfastly maintained its adherence to amateurism. It had incorporated the word "amateur" in the title of the association. In the 1950's amateur sport was increasingly regarded as the stepping stone to lucrative professional performance. The Olympic Games, once the bulwark of true amateurism, had become an arena for the vaunting of nationalism, and all sorts of subterfuges to circumvent the restrictions of amateurism. Lacrosse in Australia remained a game from which no future financial gain could accrue. The administrators of lacrosse actively supported other amateur organisations, as is evident from the case of B.C. Clague whose application for re-instatement as an amateur appeared in the correspondence for the Executive Meeting (21 June 1955). The response of the Committee was to direct the Hon. Secretary to circularise all sporting groups registered with the Amateur Sports Club requesting them to indicate whether Clague's re-instatement would affect them or whether Clague had competed with any of these bodies. The lacrosse association's solidarity with amateurism was unequivocal.

Another unsettling factor was the duty laid upon young men to render national service in the armed forces. The year 1955 was subsequent to Korea and before Vietnam. Feelings about military service were divergent, and frequently warm. Without considering the desirability of national service in itself, the fact remains that it took young men away from the normal pattern of their careers and social environment just at the time when they might have become involved in a sporting or other activity. For many, national service was an unsettling experience, and affected young men's allegiances to sporting, social and career decisions. We may safely estimate that national service diverted many young men from what in other circumstances might have been their normal pursuits. Supporters of lacrosse were fortunate to have steadfast and thoughtful administrators during those difficult years.

They may have taken heart during 1955, for there were indications that their expenditure of thought and time and money was beginning to have an effect. The number of teams entered for pennant competition increased by two. The encouragement given to schools also showed an effect: Camberwell Grammar School, Sunshine Technical School, Coburg Technical School, Preston Technical School and Prahran Technical School were interested in establishing lacrosse as one of their official games. The Collingwood Police Boys Club and the South Melbourne Boys Club intended to form a junior lacrosse team, as did the Camberwell - Glen Iris Club (Ex. Comm 19 April 1955, 10 May 1954).

The pennant season was brought to a successful conclusion. The Vince Healy Memorial Trophy for the best and fairest player was awarded to J. Heathcote of the Malvern Red team.

The season commenced on 23 April and concluded on 3 September. (Details of premierships teams not recorded in minutes)

The annual interstate game was played against South Australia, and a Colt's team was sent to Western Australia to take part in the unangural Colts carnival of the southern states. A junior team from South Australia visited Melbourne. The annual match between the universities of Melbourne and Adelaide took place in Melbourne, which was followed by the traditional match between the combined universities and the Victorian association.

The financing of interstate games came under close scrutiny. First of all, they were expensive, and the money to pay for them had to come from the contributions of players. Being a member of an

amateur organisation is not cheap. And then the strict conditions laid upon amateurs had to be observed. The Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association decided to meet its share of the cost of interstate games. Surplus money from the Gymkhana and the final games were to be paid into the interstate trip fund. Any earnings from special efforts also swelled the interstate trip fund.

The amount paid to, on behalf of, players was strictly supervised. To ensure that lacrosse players should not endanger their amateur status it was decided that interstate players in all categories should pay their own way. This included fares and other expenses. Players accepted selection at their own risk. Insurance would be taken out against injury, but the cost was to be borne by the players. The association would buy the uniforms guernseys and socks, but the players would cover their expenses. The Association would pay the expenses incurred by managers. These arrangements no doubt protected the association's resources, and the amateur status of players, but no doubt prevented some players from offering themselves for selection.

Preparations for the interstate trips were made early. Mr Evans was appointed as the state coach. Mr J.M Hodges was nominated as the manager of the Colts team to visit Perth, and nominations from players willing to make the trip was requested by 21 May. Mr W. K. Tickner was appointed manager of the Interstate team to South Australia. The selectors were required to furnish the names of their pre-selected squad by 31 May. Mr P Shappere was the manager of the junior interstate team to play South Australia in Melbourne. Clubs were asked to nominate candidates, and training was to start at Caulfield Park on 22 May at 10am. The coaching committee was to appoint a coach for that day (ex. Comm 19 April 1955). The team to visit South Australia was to consist of 14 players, for whom train and accommodation bookings were to be made for by the manager. The Colts team was to consist of 16 members, for whom train and accommodation bookings were to be made 8 weeks in advance. For the junior team in Melbourne the manager must arrange all accommodation.

It was decided that the chief coach should be sent to Adelaide on the same basis as the manager. (Ex. Comm 31 May 1955). Lipshut, the tailor, was to be approached to make blazers for all three teams. Guernseys would cost 45/- each and socks of 1/- a pair

A new development occurred concerning travel in 1955. The members of the Malvern club selected in the state team requested permission to travel to Adelaide by car. After discussion, permission to do so was granted.

At the Executive Committee meeting (16 August 1955) it was revealed that the interstate squad had been practising at Caulfield Park for the last 8 weeks. Great improvement had been noted, and special mention was made of the work of Mr Patching as physical instructor. No information is available about the course of the games and results.

At the conclusion of the Interstate Matches, appreciation was expressed concerning the work of the managers, Messrs W.K. Tickner, J.H Hodges and P. Shappere.

The Western Australian association had long been keenly aware of the value of attracting boys to the game. The press in that state supported lacrosse strongly. The Western Australians were justifiably proud of having conducted the inaugural carnival of southern states.

The annual report of the Western Australian Lacrosse Association made a special comment about the generous assistance Mr Maddison gave to all the teams.

The Victorian side were soundly beaten but by no means disgraced. They were much younger than the teams representing South Australia and Western Australia. They managed a draw at 6 goals all against the Western Australian second side but were beaten by South Australia 25 goals to 9 and by Western Australia 23 goals to 6. Three Victorian players were named in the unofficial All - Australian Colts team: D. Imlach, D. Trainor and R. Tree. The runner-up for the best and fairest player in the Colts carnival was D. Trainor.

Three clubs maintained their interstate contact with South Australia. Malvern visited East Torrens, Caulfield visited Sturt, and MHSOB visited Glenelg.

It will be seen that interest in interstate lacrosse was active, at least in the southern states, all three levels, state association, university and individual clubs. Little is reported concerning lacrosse in New South Wales or Queensland.

The Victorian association was progressive in its administration. In 1955 automatic promotion and relegation was tried as an innovation. They maintained their support of junior lacrosse and of lacrosse in schools. The association undertook making arrangements for the mid-week competition among schools. Mr Tickner, on behalf of the University club, undertook to provide coaches and referees if they were required. Teams from Melbourne High School, Box Hill High School, University High School, Williamstown High School, Caulfield Technical School (2 Teams) and Sunshine Technical School. Some difficulty arose over age limitations in the mid-week competition. It was decided that there should be no restrictions on the age of players in these school competitions.

The association was anxious to learn and adopt the best methods of coaching teams. With this in mind the Hon. Treasurer was directed to approach Mr Franz Stampfl, the now famous coach of many successful university and amateur athletes.

The association considered introducing a summer lacrosse season. It realised that many winter athletes, such as footballers, might be interested in keeping themselves fit during the summer by playing lacrosse. It therefore sent a circular to all football leagues clubs expressing the proposition in general terms. (Ex Comm 21 June 1955). There would have been some difficulties concerning amateur status, but the success of the scheme could not be evaluated until the following season.

There seems in 1955 to be the dawn of greater co-operation and harmony between clubs and the association. The gymkhana was well patronised and eagerly contested. A raffle with a considerable winning prize was profitably conducted. Votes of thanks were passed, recognising the work done by Messrs R. Ponton, N. Jeffrey, and J. Heathcote in connection with special efforts.

Recognition was made of the contribution made to Victorian lacrosse when the names of E.W. Axford, J. F. Hodges, J.M. Dobbie, C.F. Lansbury, E.L. McIntyre, H. Volk, S. McCorkill, O. Unkenstein, A.L. Evans and W.K. Tickner were submitted to the Australian Lacrosse Council as recipients of the certificate of merit for services to lacrosse.

The season closed with a Smoke Night at "The Gables" at which trophies were presented to their recipients. It was a happy evening, at which such entertainment as was needed was supplied by such members of the clubs who were willing to exercise their talents. One leaves 1955 with the feeling of a harmonious year in which much was accomplished.

1956 was perhaps the greatest year for sport in the short history of Melbourne. That was the year when the Olympic Games were held in Melbourne, and the echoes of that memorable occasion are still to be heard.

How did it effect the progress of lacrosse? Superficially, not a great deal. The 1956 season was over before the Games began; indirectly, possibly more that we realise. Lacrosse had always been a staunch adherent to the amateur ethos. Some of the leading administrators of lacrosse also held important positions in athletics, and were therefore heavily involved in the preparations for the great event. Lacrosse is a winter sport; athletics is a summer activity. Mr Shappere was therefore both a valued lacrosse and athletics administrator. He was also an official starter and official on the athletics arena. It is not to be unexpected that the preoccupation with the Olympic affairs would reduce the concentration on lacrosse.

The Victorian mid-week competition for schools was maintained, earning special congratulations from the Oakleigh Technical School and the Swinburne Technical School. As an example of the development of the game among schools it was reported that the Box Hill High School was considering including lacrosse among their house competitions. (Gen.Comm 4 September 1956). Other schools were thinking similarly, possibly organising games on a 6 a side basis.

Development was restricted by the difficulty of obtaining sticks. In spite of attempts, P.J. Brady had not yet mastered the art of making first class sticks. He had difficulty in filling the orders for sticks, and of those supplied in many failed to meet specifications. As the Executive Committee (16 March 1956) it was reported that of the 50 sticks ordered, only 17 had been received, and of these only 4 were satisfactory. In Mr Brady's defence, it may be pointed out that in South Australia and Western Australia there was also a desperate need for sticks, and Mr Brady's factory might well have been pressed beyond its capacity. A sample laminated stick was produced by the forest products section of the C.S.I.R.O. It had successfully passed tests applied to it, and placed an order for fifty.

The provision of sticks and general lacrosse equipment was taking up an undue amount of the time available to the amateur executives of the association. It was therefore recommended that the marketing of equipment should be placed in the hands of a sports store. Eventually Palmers Pennant Sports Store, High Street, Malvern was appointed as the approved distributor of lacrosse material.

At the interstate level, it was pleasing to see that there was a move to re-establish a lacrosse association in Queensland. As in the other states, availability of sticks was an obstacle. The Australian Lacrosse Council asked its constituent associations to do all they could to support lacrosseurs in Queensland particularly in the way of providing sticks. (Ex Comm.3 February 1956). The Victorian association appealed to its constituent clubs to help the Queensland people by making any surplus sticks available to them. No further mention is made of the matter, and we may therefore assume that the appeal produced little result. Nevertheless, it was pleasing to see this evidence of development in another state.

In an attempt to stimulate interest in the game, a proposal was placed before the Australian Lacrosse Council that carnivals should be conducted biennially, instead of triennially. This would mean that each southern state would host a carnival once in six years, and would send a team to another state twice. The Australian Lacrosse Council drew up a proposed itinerary of fixtures. The Victorian association did not approve of the proposal. The reason they advanced was that, in their view, the financial burden would be too heavy. In any case, they felt that it was more imperative to spend as such money as was available on the consolidation of junior lacrosse (Ex. Comm 4 September 1956)

The Western Australian association was keen to establish a series of Colts carnivals, to be held concurrently perhaps with the all-states carnivals. At the Executive Committee (31 October 1956) the Victorian association reiterated its opposition to Colts carnivals. It was prepared to entertain visiting Colts teams from Western Australia to play games, subject to the approval of the Australian Lacrosse Council, but it was not prepared to stage a Colts carnival in 1957. The difference between a carnival and a series of matches among teams from different states is not made clear. It was probably a matter of status or degree. Too many "Carnivals" would reduce the value.

Of more immediate concern was the current 1956 carnival to be held in Western Australia. The matches were to take place at Perth on the 4, 8 and 11 August. To finance the venture a levy was made on all clubs in the A section of 9 pence per player per week. The rest of the money was to come from the interstate fund, with the money arising from special efforts, the gymkhana and entrance to final games.

At the Executive Committee meeting (2 May 1956) Mr E Sleth was appointed manager of the carnival team. The selectors were instructed to choose a training squad of forty players by 19 May, this number to be reduced to a final squad of 18 in six weeks. The final team was to consist of 15 players. Mr A. Evans was appointed coach, and was to make the trip to Western Australia on the same basis as the players. A further levy of 4/- a head on all open age players, half to funding the junior interstate trip to Adelaide. As the Executive Committee meeting (18 July 1956) Mr J. Heathcote and Mr N. Jeffrey were appointed as the lacrosse representatives in the team of Olympic torch-bearers.

This meeting introduced a discordant note into the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association. It appears that Mr Evans could not accompany the team to Western Australia on the same conditions

as the players. No reasons were advanced. His position as state coach had been doubtful as early as the Executive Committee had already learnt. (ex. Comm 5 June 1956).

The members of the selected team greatly valued the experience, tactical and strategic skill Mr Evans had as its command. As a consequence the captain and vice-captain were permitted to attend the Executive Committee meeting of the team.

Concern was expressed concerning the whole question of interstate selection, and the interstate selection committee. The minutes do not reveal the nature or cause of the dissatisfaction, but the question was raised by responsible people, notably Mr J.M. Dobbie and the delegates of the Melbourne Cricket Club lacrosse section. The result was that clubs were asked to devote their deepest consideration to the personnel and activities of the interstate selection committee.

In this particular matter, it is evident that Mr Evans was unwilling to accept the appointment on the same basis as the players. What his difficulty was does not arise in the minutes, and no doubt the matter need not further be pursued. After that no doubt eloquent appeals of Messrs Heathcote and Jeffrey, the Executive Committee (18 July 1956) decided to allot the sum of £50 expenses as the coach of the carnival team.

This arrangement may have been satisfactory to Mr Evans and the interstate team, but it was open to objection on two grounds. Firstly, paying expenses was a hardy perennial on the path of amateur administrators, who conscientiously tried to maintain the amateur ideals. The allowance of \$50 to Mr Evans, when the players had to pay their own way raised grave doubts about Mr Evans amateur status. Secondly, the decision reversed the recommendations of the Finance Committee, which had been after closer scrutiny of the financial position of the association

As a protest against the decision, Mr J.M Dobbie resigned from his position as Chairman of the Finance Committee. Later, after having the situation explained to him in detail, he withdrew his resignation (Gen. Comm 4 September 1956). There is no doubt that the Victorian team departed for Perth in an acriminious atmosphere. However, depart they did, with Mr Selth (Manager) Mr Heathcote (Capt) and Mr Jeffrey (V.Capt) appointed as selectors in Western Australia. There may be significance in Mr Evans exclusion from the panel of on-the-spot selectors. Mr H. Wood was appointed as the Victorian member on the panel to select the all Australian team.

To follow progress of the carnival we must turn to Western Australian resources. The Western Australian association, according to a newspaper report dated 29 May 1956, had had its difficulties, and, due to the financial restrictions and the resulting scarcity of sticks, the game seemed likely to die out. The Western Australian association had made a good recovery, and at the start of the 1956 season had regained the level of 1947, numbering 400 players and 9 clubs. This recovery, combined with success in the previous season of the Western Australian Colts team led them to a guarded optimism.

The Western Australian association had carried out their meticulous arrangements. The Garland-McHarg Trophy had been transported from Victoria. The P.J Brady Trophy for the best and fairest player in the carnival was ready. A full round of social activities had been organised. A motor trip through the hills was planned for Sunday 5 August. On the Tuesday Lacey Bros lent their motor launch for a trip up the river, luncheon being provided at the Claremont Yacht Club. An enjoyable evening took place at the South Fremantle Football Club on Wednesday 8 August. Individual clubs provided entertainment, the Nedlands - Subiaco Club, and the Wembley Clubs providing evenings of welcome. The carnival ball, held at the YA1 Ballroom was a tremendous success. Even if Victoria could provide lessons on the playing field, and this was by no means certain, they had much to learn from Western Australians about how to support projects undertaken by their association.

The games provided excellent lacrosse. South Australia defeated Western Australia by 21 goals to 8. This success immediately raised them as favourites for the Cup. However, Victoria showed excellent form to defeat South Australia by 13 goals to 11. No doubt Mr Evan's coaching and tactical

skill played an important part. The last game of the carnival, between Western Australia and Victoria was the best, Victoria eventual winning by 6 goals to 5, the deciding goal being thrown in the closing minutes of the game. The fourth team in the carnival was a combined W.A. clubs team.

While no information is available regarding the all Australian team. Allan Gandy, of South Australia, was voted for the best and fairest player of the carnival, and thus became the winner of the P.J Brady trophy.

On their return to Victoria, the carnival team was warmly congratulated at the General Committee for their success at the carnival and their having retained the championship of Australia and the Garland - McHarg Cup. Success is a wonderful healer of wounds, and it seems that a campaign begun in some discord ended in more pleasing harmony.

The junior Interstate team visited Adelaide, and received splendid hospitality from the South Australian association. The managers report was labelled at the Executive Meeting, 24 October 1956. It was received, and pleasure was expressed at the teams success in winning the SchultzCup.

There were other important events during 1956. A suggestion coming from Mr Noel Jeffrey proposed the undertaking of a special effort in the form of a monster raffle. It received the approval of the finance sub. committee at the meeting of the Executive Committee (16 March 1956)

Special Efforts Committee was established with Mr Jeffrey as chairman. The Committee was responsible to the Executive committee.

The special Efforts Committee set to work immediately. This effort was to be a monster raffle with a Holden car as the first prize. By the 2nd of May the car had been ordered (Ex Comm 2 May 1956). The finance committee was optimistic about the result of the special effort, for as early as the 5th June consideration was given for the disposal of the profits : £50 was ear-marked for expenses of the junior inter- state visit to Adelaide. £500 was to be placed in a special trust fund for new and junior teams and the propagation of lacrosse. The final details of the monster raffle were not presented until the Executive Committee Meeting, 8 February 1957, when a nett profit of £1185-8-1 was revealed. This sum exceeded the most sanguine expectations. The first prize the Holden motor car was won by Mr R.H Bowen, 25 Lundbrook Ave, Caulfield. There were 20 minor prizes of £5 each.

The Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association decided in 1956 to strike a special badge for life members (Gen Comm 4 September 1956). At the Executive Meeting (31 October 1956) sketches of designs for life members badges and for victorious team badges were tabled. The prices quoted were discussed. No decision was made at that meeting. Amor Badgemakers were asked to submit a less expensive design. Quotes were also sought from K.G. Luke's for team and life members badges.

In recognition of their long service to the game, the names of P. Shappere and Mr E. Selth were recommended to the Australian Lacrosse Council as recipients of the certificate of merit.

It would appear that Lacrosse was developing successfully in Victoria and the southern states. The rising interest in Queensland was encouraging. Mr Lansing gave the annual general meeting a review of the future of the game in Queensland as he said it in the light of a recent visit to that state. Interesting also was the promise of the resumption of international contacts. At the same meeting of the Executive Committee Mr. S. Smith reported on a recent visit to Canada where he was able to exchange felicitations between a representative of the game and the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association. If the problems concerning sticks could be solved, there was every prospect that the resurgence of lacrosse as a major sport in Australia would continue.

Some concern may have been in the minds of the Executive Committee. At their meeting (14 August 1957) they decided to include discussion of the future of the game at the next general meeting. This may have arisen from the losses sustained over the entertainment of the interstate teams, which the executive believed were due to apathy among the clubs. In view of the possible visit by teams from

American universities, the executive no doubt hoped to broaden the outlook of club officials and members so that adequate support would be given to and international fixture such as this.

In 1957 Victoria was to host two interstate fixtures. The annual match between South Australia and Victoria for the Symonds Memorial Trophy, and a touring colts team from Western Australia. These matches were played on Saturday 27 July, but elaborate arrangements were made in preparation for the event, £10 were allowed to the managers of each team. A reception was to be held at the Amateur Sports Club at 5p.m on Friday 26 July for the four participating teams. The president, life members and executive officers of each association, and the managers and coaches were to be the guests of the Victorian association. Other members of associations and club officials were invited to attend on a subscription of 10/- on application to the Honorary Secretary. The grounds were marked out to Australian Lacrosse Council specifications. Four boundary umpires and six ball-boys were provided. As referees J. Dobbie, F. Durham and A. Donald were appointed respectively for senior, colts, and junior matches. Goal umpires appointed were J. Hodges and A. Bamford. The team managers were to advise the Hon. Secretary concerning requirements for guernseys and blazers as soon as the teams were selected. Admission to the Albert Ground was fixed at 4/- a head. Three hundred programs were to be printed and sold for 1/- each. A public address system was to be installed, and Mr W. Tickner was appointed to give commentary of the game. Insurance against rain was taken out to the value of £100. A smoke night was organised by a sub-committee consisting of Messrs Shappere, Lansbury, Goslin and Hodges. Visiting teams from Western Australia and South Australia were to be guests of the association. All other people attending would pay a subscription of 10/-. A Sunday trip was organised by Mr N. Jeffrey, and a visit to a television station was arranged. These interstate fixtures demanded a great outlay of time and energy of the executive of the Victorian association. The Victorians did not perform well in the interstate matches. The Western Australian Colts defeated the Victorian Colts by 12 goals to 7, after a game described as being of the highest quality. On their way to Victoria they had played a match against South Australia, which was won by 13 goals to 7. Previously to those games, the Western Australian Colts had played 12 interstate games, and had been beaten only once. This must have been regarded as very promising for the future by the Western Australian association. Mr P. Shappere had presented a trophy for interstate colts games, and the Western Australian team were proud to be the first to receive it.

All this shows that lacrosse was very much alive in the southern states. Its future in Queensland was uncertain. The death of one of their great administrators, Mr J.S. Hutcheon, Q.C was a severe loss. He was a figure notable in Queensland both in cricket and lacrosse. He was a member of the Australian Cricket Board for almost 40 years. He had been President of the Queensland Cricket Association for 30 years. He had been captain of the Queensland cricket team on their southern tour in 1910, during which Queensland won three matches. His services to lacrosse in Queensland were equally long and distinguished. He had represented Australia against Canada during that memorable tour of 1907. It was to be hoped that the loss of this leading figure would not too seriously affect the revival of interest in lacrosse in Queensland.

There was activity even on an international level in lacrosse. The Washington and Lee University and the University of Virginia (U.S.A) were interested in sending lacrosse teams on tour in Australia. The Executive Committee (6 March 1957) received a letter indicating that these universities would like to organise such a tour in the near future. The Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association was interested, and stated that it would be pleased to receive further information. However, such a tour must be undertaken by the Australian Lacrosse Council. They sent the address of the secretary of that organisation, Mr I.J. Taylor. Further correspondence was received at the Executive Committee on 7 May 1957, to which they replied that they would anticipate little difficulty in arranging billeting for the teams, and sent a copy of the letter to the Australian Lacrosse Council. Correspondence on the subject was received from the Australian Lacrosse Council (6 August 1957), but deferred further consideration of the project until more information was available from Western Australian sources. We learn that the Australian Lacrosse Council was studying the proposal constructively and making calculations as to the amount each member association would be required to bear. A visit from an American team could do much to stimulate progress in lacrosse in Australia. The proposed tour indicated that Australia still was worthy of consideration of international levels.

The continued policy for the development of lacrosse of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association was the recruitment and encouragement of young players, especially in schools. They had discontinued the merchandising of sticks and equipment, but they were prepared to subsidise the provision of sticks and equipment for young players. When Mr Tillotson provided the scheme for the introduction at Box Hill High School of lacrosse as a house sport, they sent a copy of it to all schools where lacrosse was played. They appointed Mr F. Graf as the interstate coach for juniors. At the Executive Committee meeting (6 June 1957) a request was received for subsidies to provide sticks for the Oakleigh Technical School. The Williamstown club made a similar request, which was passed on to the finance Committee (21 March 1957). The question of stick subsidies was referred to the finance sub committee, the matter to be given high priority. At the Executive Committee meeting (7 May 1957) a request was received from the Heidelberg Technical School for equipment for the school, Mr Shappere was invited to call on Mr Bryning to ascertain the position of lacrosse in the school. He was permitted to take any action he thought necessary. It was found that the Heidelberg Technical School had undertaken to half the cost of the sticks, the remainder to be met by the association. However on the recommendation of Mr Shappere the Executive Committee agreed to provide 6 additional sticks and a set of goal nets (4 June 1957). It is easy to see the force to the argument raised by the association against the establishment of Colts carnivals when we are aware of the demands being made on them for developmental funds.

Another practical step was the offer made by the association to offer their full cooperation in the conduct of the lacrosse competition during their winter sports season.

The Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association regarded Colts activities as part of their over-all strategy for the recruitment of young players, but felt that these activities should be kept within proportion. The Western Australian and South Australian associations were in favour of regular colts carnivals, and their influence and voting power led the Australian Lacrosse Council to decide in their favour. When the report of the Victorian delegate to the Australian Lacrosse Council was presented to the Executive Committee (6 August 1957) it included the decision that the first official Colts carnival would be held in 1960 in Perth, the report was received without demur. The next senior carnival was to be held in Melbourne in 1959.

It was in 1957 that the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association conceived the idea of presenting medals to victorious interstate teams and to life members. At the Executive Committee meeting (8 February 1957) it was decided to approach Stokes & Co and K.G Luke for quotations for the emblems. At the Executive Committee meeting (14-8-57) it was decided that the motion sanctioning the presentation of medals to winning teams be rescinded. A design for the life members medal submitted by K.G Luke was approved. The cost of casting the medal in gold was higher than the Executive Committee could approve, and it was decided that they would have the badge made in silver-gilt, providing the cost did not exceed £ 2-10-0. The purchase of 12 medals was approved.

The annual gymkhana in Victoria had been deleted from the association fixtures for 1956, but the General Committee (24 April 57) decided that it will be revived. The reasons why it failed to receive general support are not clear. Possibly, as the Williamstown club indicated, the traditional date was inconvenient. The Queens Birthday holiday completed a long week-end, and no doubt many lacrosseurs used it for family holidays. Possibly clubs begrudged the payment of entry fees. This was unreasonable. for the gymkhana was a source of revenue for the association, and it is proper that such expenses should be equally shared. Possibly the compulsion applied by the association aroused resentment, as it usually does. Possibly the knock-out nature of the competition made the event unattractive to weaker clubs. The General Committee decided to proceed with the gymkhana stipulating that the Executive Committee should draw up the details, and forward them to clubs in ample time. The Executive Committee (7-5-57) overcame some of the objections by ensuring that all clubs in the 6 a side competition have three games, the finals to be played between the two leading sides in each section.

Entry was compulsory, each club to enter at least one team. The entrance fee was to be 15/- for each senior team and 6/- for each junior team. The penalty for failing to enter was to be £ 2-2-0 per section. The entrance fee for the teams covered admittance to the ground, but visitors would pay 2/6, 1/- for

juniors over twelve. At the Executive Committee Meeting (2 July 1957) a letter was received from the MCC Lacrosse Club advising that they had been unable to field an A section team, and requesting remission of the fine incurred. There must have been good reason for the MCC's defection, for the Hon. Secretary was directed to advise that the fine would be remitted. A similar request from the University for its failure to field a C section team and remission of the fine was also granted. The MHSOB club, however, also defaulted at the gymkhana and a fine was imposed on them. This fine, among others, was remitted, because of the effects of the epidemic of influenza (Ex Comm. 6 August 1957).

Another financial project was revived in 1957. Mr N. Jeffrey had been asked to investigate the possibility of conducting a monster raffle in 1957. (Ex Comm 8 February 1957). At the next meeting (6 March 1957) he reported that his survey among the clubs indicated that the majority of clubs were not in favour of the project, and it was abandoned for 1957.

At the Executive Committee of Victoria (17 December 1957) the proposition was revived, and Mr Jeffrey was asked to draft a scheme for a monster effort in 1958.

At the annual general meeting concluding the 1957 season (4 February 1958) Mr Jeffrey presented his scheme. There were to be 750 tickets at £5 each. The first prize would be a Holden sedan, fully registered and insured. The second prize would be a television receiver, installed in the metropolitan area. The third prize would be a washing machine. The minor prizes consisted of 20 cash prizes of £5 (one drawn each week) and 20 free tickets in the raffle (one to be drawn each week). The raffle could be conducted over a 20 week period, the main drawing to be at the end of the 1958 season. Clubs would participate in the profits to the extent of £1 for each ticket sold. Mr Jeffrey pointed out that in 1956 the 500 tickets were easily sold. The extra prizes would make the raffle more attractive to the public. The clubs would have more time to sell the tickets. He felt confident that 750 tickets would be successfully sold. The general meeting referred the conduct of the monster effort back to the Executive Committee for implementation.

Members of the association singled out for special commendation in 1957 were Mr. M. Robertson who was recommended at the General Committee meeting (3 September 1957) for the ALC Certificate of Merit. Certificates to members previously recommended were presented at the annual meeting to Messrs P. Shappere and R. Coldstream.

The year 1957 indicated that lacrosse was a good year, with promise of exciting things to come.

At the beginning of the season of 1958 it seemed as if the dawn of a new era might be opening. The visit to Australia from two lacrosse teams from two American universities seemed to be assured. One might wonder if American university teams would be greatly superior to teams from Australian universities. It must be remembered that lacrosse outside the universities had become a highly professional game. If lacrosse in Australia was to retain credibility as an amateur sport, they could invite only teams from universities. The Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association acted quickly and strongly. From the time when the visit from a combined team from Washington and Lee University and University of Virginia was first proposed, the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association had supported the project. The first Executive Committee at which anything other than routine matters arose was held on 22 February. This was a special Executive Committee called to discuss the proposed international visit. At this meeting the Executive Committee firmly involved the association by passing a motion that the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association supports whole-heartedly the International visit for 1959.

It is all very well to give verbal assent; it is quite another matter to give practical testimony. This the Executive Committee did by contracting to lodge £1500 by February 1959 as the Victorian association's contribution to the international visit of that year: the money to be refunded if the visit did not take place. This was a bold lead, and it was hoped that the southern states would follow it.

The Victorian association viewed the international so seriously that they considered it unwise to allow any domestic arrangements to compete with it. They made four recommendations for the consideration of the Australian Lacrosse Council:

- a) The international visit is of such importance as to warrant the postponement of the 1959 and 1960 carnivals each for one year.
- b) The Victorian association felt that at this stage it would not be advisable to stage international matches in Queensland, New South Wales or Tasmania
- c) The Victorian association undertook to arrange billeting for the Americans while they were in Victoria.
- d) The Victorian Association suggested that three international games should be staged in Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia: one test match against Australia, one match against the state team, and one seconds match against the state second team. The test match should be played as the last of the series in each state.

To give further practical evidence Mr N. Jeffrey was authorised to proceed with the Monster Effort. These views were not entirely endorsed by the Australian Lacrosse Council. Western Australia and South Australia were reluctant to postpone the 1959 carnival. They felt that a carnival at which all states actively playing were represented would be a fine occasion for drawing the maximum attention to the international visit. The Victorian association therefore must raise funds for conducting the carnival. To do this the Executive Committee (4 March 1958) decided to levy all members of A teams at 9 pence player per week, and all B section players 6 pence per player. This money to be paid to the Hon. Treasurer when required, and credited to the carnival fund.

At the same time, money had to be found for the interstate visit to South Australia in the current year. It was decided to adopt the practice that had been applied since 1956.

At this meeting the Hon. Secretary was invited to co-operate with Mr N. Jeffrey in drafting the wording of the application forms for the Monster Effort. In view of the financial responsibilities the association had undertaken the success of the Monster Effort was imperative. The association foresaw the need for publicity. They therefore appointed the Hon. Secretary as Press Representative to the Melbourne Herald. He was to report his appointment to the Sporting Editor, and ascertain what the Herald would require in the way of notes, scores etc.

The Monster Effort was a key enterprise for the success of the international visit, and for the development of lacrosse generally. At the general committee meeting (30 April 1958) Mr Jeffrey gave a pessimistic report, indicating that some clubs were not giving the effort full support. His words may have stimulated action, for, at the Executive Committee (12 May 1958) he reported that at that date 700 tickets had been sold. A month later (4 June 1958) he was able to report that all tickets had been sold, and that the Association would profit from the venture to the extent of about £1900.00. At the same time, the figures indicated that his criticism of the inactivity of some clubs was justified.

At this stage the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association put forward a further series of proposals for the international visit:

- 1. There should be a grand parade of lacrosseurs and competing teams on the opening day. This would make a brave show when we realise that in Victoria the opening would coincide with the Australian Lacrosse Council's all states carnival.
- 2. The association should endeavour to have the Governor of Victoria, Sir Dallas Brooks open the ceremony.

3. There should be a civic reception to which the motorcade of players should be given a Police motor cycle escort.
4. As many old players as possible should be contacted, and asked to pledge their support.
5. The association should arrange private road transport from Sydney for the visitors.
6. Under 14 and school players should be admitted free. They should also be given one free ticket for a junior.
7. Admission charges should not be excessively high.
8. It was anticipated that the publicity would attract many new young players to lacrosse. The supply of sticks had not yet been fully solved, and it was desirable to plan with P.J Brady for an expected large demand for sticks. The Hon. Secretary was to ascertain how many sticks could be made by March 1959, in the event of a large influx of players as a result of the International visit.

A sub-committee of three, Messrs P. Shappere, N. Jeffrey, under the chairmanship of Mr R. Coldstream was set up to draw up draft proposals covering all aspects of the visit. There is no doubt that the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association expected great things from the international visit.

Another important decision arising in 1958 was the possibility of gaining a tenancy in an indoor games arena at Albert Park. Sportsmen will remember that at this time vigorous moves were being made to improve the facilities in Albert Park. Boat sheds had been erected for rowing clubs. A table tennis facility had been provided, and the opportunity arose for the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association to share part of the lease of a commodious area.

The proposal was raised at the Executive Committee meeting (21 July 1958) by the President of the Association, Mr Coldstream. He had been informed by the Albert Park trustees that sharing in the time of one of the large store-houses adjacent to the MacRobertson Girls High School. The Albert Park Trust was prepared to carry out extensive alterations and improvements to make it one of the largest indoor sporting arenas in Australia. It would be possible to stage 6 or 8 a side lacrosse matches as a spectator attraction.

The Executive Committee saw the possibilities and was strongly attracted to the proposition. Night matches could be played all the year round. It could provide coaching facilities for both seniors and juniors. Possibly it would be available for mid-week matches for school-boys. The association would need to find £500 p.a for rent, of which some might be recovered from night matches. The Executive Committee directed Mr Coldstream to indicate the Executive Committee's lively interest, and to ask them to hold the offer open for as long as possible while they assessed the capacity of the association to meet expenses.

As a first step they called a special general meeting of the association for 1 September 1958, at which the clubs would be asked :

- a) If they would enter teams for competitions;
- b) if they would provide officials to administer the proposal;
- c) if they would provide finance if necessary.

The clubs were urged to have as many members as possible at the meeting. It was suggested that they should hold club general meetings to consider the proposals before the association's special general meeting. Secretaries were asked to ensure that their club was represented by a delegate prepared to put their club's point of view, and to authorise to vote on their behalf.

The special general meeting took place on 11 September 1958. It was attended by 53 members, Correspondence in favour of the proposition was received from the Malvern club and the Melbourne

Cricket Club's lacrosse section. Discussion was lively, with speakers for and against the proposition. Finally the motion that the V.A.L.A take the necessary steps to obtain the use of the indoor lacrosse arena as offered by the Albert Park Committee of Management. This was a courageous, forward-looking decision which could bring great benefit to lacrosse in Victoria.

A third major decision was made concerning the publishing of a book on lacrosse. The manuscript had been compiled by Mr R. Eades, a former member of the Wattle Park and Surrey Park clubs. He was experienced in the game, having represented his club for fifteen years in A section lacrosse. The manuscript had been previously made available for critical assessment by the association. It received approval, for at the Executive Committee meeting (19 November 1958) the question of publication was raised. The manuscript was entitled "The Game of Lacrosse":

The estimate of costs offered were :

Printing cost	£300
Purchase of manuscript	£100

This could be reduced by £100 gained from advertisers. The cost per copy was estimated at 3/10. The suggested retail price was 7/6, the wholesale price 5/6. The association would thus make a profit of 3/10 on the retail price and 1/8 on the wholesale. It was estimated that advertisement could be sold for £12 a page, less 20% agents commission.

It was suggested that a run of 2000 copies be printed. The estimated sales distributed was :

South Australian Lacrosse Association	400 copies
Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association	400 copies
Western Australia Lacrosse Association	300 copies
Sports stores, book sellers	200 copies
State and municipal libraries	200 copies
Reserve	500 copies

The distribution should be through member clubs, booksellers, and direct to libraries and wholesalers. It was desirable to have adequate covers and strong binding. It would be of useful pocket size, comparable with the "Readers Digest". The official rules would be included. A foreword by a leading lacrosse official was desirable.

The Executive Committee approved of the publication of the book, and recommended a special general committee meeting was called on the first Tuesday in December. All club delegates were to be advised, and clubs were asked to ensure that their delegates attended the meeting. A copy of the index of the book was to accompany the notice of the meeting.

The special general committee meeting in fact was held on 28 November 1958. The broad views of the Executive Committee were called for, and Mr P. Shappere responded. The Hon. Secretary of the Surrey Park club gave an outline of Mr Eades's lacrosse background. General discussion followed, at the conclusion of which the General Committee authorised that £435 should be provided for the purchase and printing of the book, "The Game Lacrosse".

It was indicated that its publication should be sanctioned by the Australian Lacrosse Council, and that the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association would give Mr Eades assistance in having his application routed through the right channels.

These three major undertakings in themselves would make the season of 1958 an important period for lacrosseurs in Australia.

None of these projects would come to anything unless the foundation of the association, the successful carrying through of the weekly pennant fixtures provided its players with the relaxation, entertainment, and competitive sport for which they came together. The season started on 19 April and finished on 6 September. Thirty two teams were entered in the A, B, and C open sections, and

16 in the under age. There may have been some unease in that no new clubs were being formed. Furthermore two clubs, Malvern and Caulfield had grown to the state where they could dominate the club games and the association deliberations. Malvern entered 6 teams, Caulfield 5 with the possibility of a sixth. MCC entered four teams, but two of these came from the Police Boys Club. Williamstown entered four and entries then fell away to the University's single entry in B grade. This trend is further illustrated in the clubs response to the Special Effort. Malvern sold 315 tickets and Caulfield 227. The response then fell away to 46 from MCC to none from the University. In New South Wales the dominance of a single club over all others had led to the collapse of competitive lacrosse. The fact that no new clubs were formed, and two clubs had increased out of proportion with the others no doubt caused some concern. No doubt this unease lay behind the comments of the Hon Secretary at the annual general meeting (17 February 1959) when he pointed out that many players were lost to the game between Under 16 and the open age groups because no senior club official travels with and looks after the team. A similar, or perhaps greater, wastage took place in connection with school teams. The association was liberal in assessing the formation of school teams: indeed they had committed themselves to conducting the mid week competition. At the meeting of the Executive Committee (18 March 1957) made available 14 unstrung stick to Footscray Technical School and 10 to Heidelberg Technical School. There is no word of a sponsoring or practical interest being drawn in the welfare of school teams that the players would continue with the game after they left school. There were clubs which interested themselves in the lacrosse teams in the schools in their vicinity, such as Malvern, Caulfield, Williamstown, Surrey Park and Camberwell - Glen Iris, but many school teams seem to have been seed sown by the way-side, only to go to waste. At the Executive Committee (28 October 1958) a report from the Development Sub-Committee was read. It was received and adopted. Unfortunately, the minutes provide no details of the report, but the committee re-asserted its desire to help school and near under - age teams, and reminded intending applicants that their requests should be made as soon as possible, and that 31 May 1959 was the closing date for application.

However, the home and away season proceeded to a successful conclusion. There were occasional complaints, common to all sports about the standard of referees (MCC. Ex. Comm 1 July & 19 May 1958), uniform dress to be worn by referees (3 June 1958).

Malvern 13 defeated Caulfield 7 in the A section grand final.

No doubt in view of the heavy commitments of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association in 1959, intermediate matches received less prominence than was normally accorded to them. However, senior and junior interstate games took place between Victoria and South Australia. Training for the teams began later than usual. At the Executive Committee meeting (3 June 1958), at which it was decided that a senior interstate squad of 20 players should be nominated by 6 June and a junior squad of 20 by 6 July. Mr Lansbury was appointed manager of the senior team with fares and expenses to be paid for by the association. A coach should be sent with the team, for whom the cost of fares and expenses would be paid by the association. Mr P. Shappere was appointed manager of the under 16 team on the same conditions as the manager of the seniors. The senior interstate team was to be announced by Sunday 13 July. No information provided regarding the results of these games.

In the Under 16 game Victoria defeated South Australia 20 goals to 10. The game was played on the Adelaide Cricket Ground #2. Frank Moore from Surrey Park was the coach, R. Graham was captain, and A. Chiron was vice-captain.

At the Executive Meeting (18 August 1958), in response to a vote of thanks to the manager and the coach, the coach in a comprehensive verbal report, made several suggestions about the future of interstate visits.

It would seem that there was some dissatisfaction with the arrangements of interstate games. At the Executive Committee (30 September 1958) a motion was put forward requesting that the policy of selection in choosing the state side should be scrutinised. The motion was lost, but before the meeting closed, members of the Executive were reminded to come prepared to offer their views for promoting keener interest in state selection. At the Executive meeting (28 October 1958) the agenda included

a request that members offer suggestions on how to combat the apathy towards training for state selection as reported by the senior coach.

Part, at any rate, of the apathy may have been due to the training sessions being arranged on Sunday mornings, for the Executive Members were asked to express their opinion on a proposal that a series of practice matches be conducted on Saturday afternoons. Whatever the reason, there seems to have been some lack of enthusiasm about interstate matches.

These are relatively unimportant failings in a year which showed so much firm decision makings by the administrators of lacrosse, and which presented such striking prospects for the future of the game.

The season of 1959 is one that will be long remembered by those who took part in it, to be viewed almost with awe by those who have come after. Australia earned for itself the right to be considered a major lacrosse nation, whether it eventually fulfilled the high promise of 1959 remains to be seen, but the visit of teams from the United States of America to Australia was an event of national importance.

The American team would be drawn from the Universities of Virginia and Washington and Lee. It should be understood that it was only in the universities of the United States, that the game was played under amateur conditions. The visit therefore was one in which American amateurs would compete with amateurs from the southern states of Australia.

The 1959 tour of an American team to Australia was conceived by Gene Corrigan, lacrosse coach at the University of Virginia, in early 1957. Gene Corrigan was head lacrosse coach at Washington & Lee University from 1956-58 and at University of Virginia from 1959-67. Gene Corrigan had taken the Washington & Lee team to England several years before and had also received reports of Australian lacrosse from members of the U.S.A. Olympic field hockey team that participated in the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956, and contacted the controlling bodies of lacrosse in Australia. From that time he worked unceasingly towards the fulfilment of his idea. Unfortunately prior to the Australian tour Gene's wife Lena was expecting another child and was having some health issues so it was not possible for Gene to participate in that tour. As Gene explained in 2018 "My brother George had been an All-American player at the University of Maryland and had kept involved with the game as a graduate. When I could not make the trip I asked him to take my place, he knew all about the players from both teams and they knew what a terrific person he was. George was involved in a business at that time and he left that position against the wishes of his partners, costing him a position when he returned. He succeeded in business as we all expected him to do during the rest of his life! I cannot imagine anyone doing what he did to make that trip possible. Anyway, thank goodness he was willing to take on the trip and I doubt there could have been a better person to make this trip such a great event for the team than he was."

The team had two playing coaches - George Corrigan who was taking the place of Gene Corrigan representing UVA, and Robert McHenry who became coach of Washington & Lee following Gene's appointment as coach at UVA. Robert McHenry had been a player at Washington & Lee while Gene Corrigan was coach.

The American team was billeted by Australian players and supporters throughout the tour, which started in Perth, then on to Adelaide for more warm up games and finished in Melbourne through participation in the Australian Carnival matches and culminated in the test match at the MCG. Clearly it was an extremely well organized tour from both ends and as can be seen from the souvenir programme for the Australian championships and the test match between Australian and the USA, there was a lot of support from many people and companies in Australia, including General Motors-Holden, which had only been established in 1948, the Melbourne Cricket Club, the Myer Emporium, Ansett - ANA and many small businesses and supporters. The Prince of Wales Hotel in St Kilda was also a sponsor and the South Australian team stayed at the hotel for the carnival. "Thanks must be given to the late I. J. Taylor, Carl Schulz of South Australia, and the present secretary of the Australian Lacrosse Council, Mr Algy Taylor, for their untiring efforts to make this tour possible and I feel that the Executive Officer of each state will join with me in thanking them for their sterling efforts."

The Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association had already committed itself heavily to provide money. It then set about arranging the details of the visit of the Americans to Australia. The American team would be drawn from the Universities of Virginia and Washington and Lee. It should be understood that it was only in the universities of the United States, that the game was played under amateur conditions. The visit therefore was one in which American amateurs would compete with amateurs in the southern states of Australia.

The task of preparing for the American visit was complicated for Victoria by the circumstance that in 1959 Melbourne was the venue for the all-state carnival. The carnival in itself required much prethought and careful administration, but the task became gigantic when the responsibilities of an international visit were also undertaken. It was decided to appoint a series of sub-committees to make arrangements for every contingency they could foresee. At the first meeting it was decided that for each sub-committee a senior member of the Executive should be appointed, to be known as the convenor and chairman. All sub-committees were empowered to co-opt such colleagues as they thought suitable. Each sub-committee should report at least once a month to the Executive Committee.

The following sub-committees were set up:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Billeting: | Mr N. Jeffrey (Convenor), Mr M. Kindermann to be the elected member, and Mr Jeffrey was to nominate the third member. |
| 2. Entertainment : | Mr W. Gray (Convenor), P. Humphreys, C. Middleton and R. Reddaway elected members. |
| 3. Publicity : | Mr N. Sterck (Convenor), M. Aitkins, R. Goslin and J. Hughes elected members. |
| 4. Finance Officers : | Mr C. F. Lansbury was appointed Finance Officer for the carnival and US visit with Mr A. Bamford to assist. |
| 5. Ground Arrangement | Mr R. Goslin (Convenor), J. Daw Senior and J. Tomlinson elected members |

At the Executive Committee of the VALA (1 April 1959) the reports from the sub-committees began coming in.

A verbal report was received from the Publicity Committee. It revealed that advertising space in Batman Avenue had been reserved for four weeks. A budget of the estimated expenditure for the carnival and the visit of the United States players would be presented at the next meeting.

The Billeting Committee reported that it felt confident that there would be sufficient response. The offers would probably exceed the demand and selection might be necessary. To ensure that guests and hosts would be compatible, Mr G. Corrigan (Coach) of the American touring team had been asked to furnish as soon as possible information on each visitor stating :-

Name
Age
Course of study
Special Interests
Any aspect of Australian Life interested in
Religious denomination

A questionnaire was then issued through the clubs along the following lines :

"I would be glad to billet etc. . . . "
Name
Address
Club

Occupation
 Phone (Business and Private)
 Type of Accommodation (E.g. Single bed in separate room, share bedroom, divan bed in sunroom etc)
 Will Accommodation be available for the full period of the carnival ?
 Will Accommodation be available for one or two days on the arrival of the visitors in Melbourne on 2nd July ?
 Will you be at work or on leave during the carnival ?
 Proximity of home to public transport
 Could you provide transport to training, matches, sight seeing etc ?
 Religious denomination

The questionnaire should be returned by 31 May.

At the Executive Committee meeting (27 April 1959) the Entertainment Committee tabled its report. The estimates for complimentary tickets were based on the visiting teams, the Victorian senior team and their coach. It was moved that the President, the Executive and the Honorary Records Secretary, and their ladies, should also be on the complimentary list. The Entertainments Committee was allowed £650.00.

The Publicity Committee presented its report which was received with approbation and an allowance of £160.

Details in the conduct of play needed to be arranged. There were different interpretations of some rules in each state. The Victorian association recommended to the Australian Lacrosse Council that there should be a meeting between representatives of the three southern states to arrive at uniformity of the laws and their interpretation before the carnival and the arrival of the United States team.

At the Executive Committee meeting on 25 May it was stated that a request had been made to the Commanding Officer of the City of Melbourne Regiment for the band to play at the international match to be played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

At a special Executive Committee meeting on 7 June 1959 further activities of the Publicity Committee were outlined: Mr Sterck showed calico car-boot signs for the visit of the United States players. The state coach was reimbursed the sum of £15 for T-Shirts for the interstate training squad.

At the Executive Committee of the VALA on 22 June 1959 a panel of Liaison Officers consisting of Messrs F. Durham, H. Wood, A. Bamford, K. Buchanan, N. Buckley, G. Knowles, M. Kindermann and B. Newgreen were appointed. Mr N.O'Brien was appointed referee for the game U.S.A v Victoria on 1 August and the Victorian second side game on 5 August. Mr F. Durham for the game between South Australia and Western Australia on 1 August, and U.S.A vs Colts on 30 July. This panel was increased at the special Executive Committee meeting (7 July 1959) to:

USA	v	Vic Colts	30 July	F. Durham
USA	v	Vic (1)	1 August	N. O'Brien
SA	v	WA	1 August	R. Kilvert
USA	v	Vic (2)	5 August	F. Durham
SA	v	Vic	5 August	N. O'Brien

Mr N. O'Brien's name was submitted to the Australian Lacrosse Council to be on the panel of referees for the test match between USA and Australia.

The Victorian panel of goal umpires was : Messrs R. Cameron, K. Buchanan, N. Buckley, H. Sterck, M. Taylor, K. Waite, J. Daw Snr, J. Corrigan, T. Peppard, R. Dickson, C. Wheeler, B. Smith, R. Davis, J. Hodges and M. Kindermann.

Boundary umpires and ball-boys were left in the hands of Messrs C. Middleton and W. Gray. The Hon Secretary would arrange time-keepers. Admission to the games was fixed at 3/- on week days and 4/- on Saturdays.

Programmes had to be printed, the price of the programmes would be a shilling.

The University of Melbourne made its facilities available for training.

General Motors - Holden made available two sedan cars to help with transport. The drivers assigned to these cars were, No1.car, Messrs C. Middleton and F. Lansbury, No2 car, Messrs R. Goslin and G. Aitken. Every possible contingency seemed to be covered.

The Western Australian association had requested billets for some members of its team. The Billeting Officer, Mr N. Jeffrey was able to report that billets had been found for all members of the United States teams and for those members of the Western Australian team for whom billets had been requested.

The Publicity Committee reported that signs for the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Wellington Parade had been approved. Mr Sterck was asked to procure 50 American flags and 50 Australian flags.

The Entertainment Committee reported its activities, and Mr W. Gray was asked to provide an approved free list. The toast list was to be formulated by the Executive and the President. A public address system was organised for the Albert Ground.

Mr C. Middleton was nominated as the Victorian representative on the Australian Lacrosse Council's selection panel. The Victorian Executive decided that he should be sent to Adelaide to watch the United States v South Australia game if he felt that it would help in the preparation of the Victorian team. Rain Insurance for £200 was taken out against 10 points or more of rain falling between 11a.m and 2p.m on the day of the International game. Two under 16 teams would play a 6 a side match during the interval, for which Mr. W. Gray was requested to buy 14 sets of protective equipment. Mr F. Knowles was appointed Liaison Officer for the South Australian team, and Mr F. Durham for the Western Australians. The Entertainment Committee was requested to arrange suitable entertainment for ladies accompanying the South Australian and Western Australian teams. It would seem that the Victorian Executive Committee had foreseen every possible contingency and made arrangements to meet it.

If Murphy's Law had been formulated as early as 1959, the interstate carnival demonstrated that, if anything can go wrong, it will. We learn from the report of the Western Australian state manager that the Western Australian team arrived in Melbourne the day before they were expected. They were met only by heavy rain. The Victorian association was unaware of their arrival. Billeting had been organised to start from the following day. There was much agitated telephoning. Eventually accommodation was found for them at the YMCA, which organisation placed every facility at their disposal, including the gymnasium. The Western Australian team was now fragmented. Some members had arranged their own accommodation. The Victorian officials arranged for billeting and training the next day. The rain continued, and the University ground was unfit for play. On learning this, the Victorian officials arranged for the Western Australians to practise at Malvern, but their manager could not contact many of their players. The team could not train together until the afternoon of Friday 31 July, by which time the University ground had recovered sufficiently for the Western Australian team to put in a good, solid session.

The visit of the American team to Perth was a great success, though the financial returns fell short of what the association had hoped. Games were played on 4, 7, 9 and 11 July.

The Western Australian association planned and conducted the visit of the American teams to their state with the usual thoroughness and generosity, with the visitors being billeted privately. Western Australian hosts threw open their houses and entertained them regardless of expense or trouble.

The press and the radio co-operated fully. The "Western Australian", the "Daily News" and the "Sunday Times" covered the visit generously with articles and illustrations. Stations 6 WF (Ron Halcombe), 6 IX (Monty Menhennel) 6PR (Oliver Drake- Brockman) and 6 PM (Graham Goodon) gave the visit much time. The Clifton Advertising Agency provided programmes cost free. The first match against the Americans was played on 4 July, and the "Daily News" printed a lively cartoon entitled Rigley on Independence Day, showing a lively incident of play with many casualties", under which the caption read. "I used to think that the boys in the Boston Massacre and the Battle of Valley Forge had it tough."

The Americans were welcomed by the President of the Western Australian Lacrosse Association, Mr H. Rudderham, who said : "As President of the Western Australian Lacrosse Association it is my privilege and very great pleasure to extend to our American visitors a very cordial welcome to this state.

Coming from Virginia and Washington & Lee Universities you have travelled many thousands of miles to take part in series of matches with us. All lacrosse enthusiasts, and indeed the sporting public of the state generally, are looking forward with the loveliest anticipation to the forthcoming games which will be the first international fixtures played in Australia for more than 50 years.

May I express the hope that will make many enduring friendships during your stay with us and that these lasting associations will provide the incentive which will ensure that your visit is only the forerunner of many international contests between players of our two countries.

Your stay in this state will be all too short. However, I trust that the various functions which have been arranged for your entertainment will leave you with many pleasant recollections of the "Golden West".

The President of the Australian Lacrosse Council, Mr J L Carden, also welcomed the visitors. "As President of the Australian Lacrosse Council it gives me great pleasure to welcome the visitors to our shores, a visit which we trust will remain a happy memory for many years to come, not only to the visitors but to all officials and players in Australia who feel that the interest already shown will be very beneficial to the game in this country.

Thanks must be given to the late I. J Taylor, Mr Carl Schulz of South Australia , and the present secretary of the Australian Lacrosse Council, Mr Algy Taylor, for their untiring efforts to make this tour possible and I feel that the Executive Officer of each state will join with me in thanking them for their sterling efforts."

They were :

University of Virginia

George Corrigan (coach)
Deely Nice
Peter Quesenberry
Ken Sappington
Jay Taylor
John Storkerson
John Spilman
Butch McCleary
Barry Feldstein
John Snyder
Melville Church
Tommy Swindell
Fred Askin (manager)

Washington and Lee

Robert McHenry (coach)
Walter Thompson
Jay Stull
Harrison Alley
Hunter Tracht
Mike Applefeld
Clark Lea
John Dinkel
Skip Horst
Corky Briscoe
Leslie Peard
Henry Bohlman

The combined universities team arrived in Perth on 2 July and played a warmup match of Washington and Lee vs Virginia on 4 July, no doubt celebrating American Independence Day that evening. They played three matches in Perth and defeated 3 W. A. teams 10-8, 8-6 and 12-8. The team departed for Adelaide by train on 14 July and arrived in Adelaide on 16 July for an official reception at Adelaide train station.

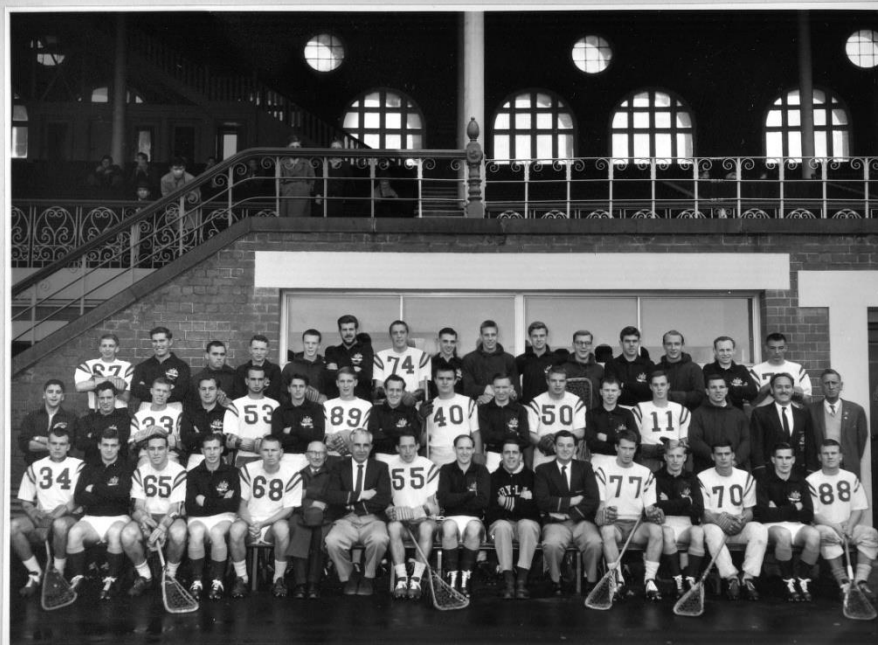
In Adelaide the S.A. team was brilliant and won the first two matches. The third match showed a vast improvement in the American team and they managed a one goal win. The scores for these three matches were 13-5, 12-6 at Norwood Oval (under lights for the second match), and the final match 10-9 to the Americans at Thebarton Oval. The American team departed by private cars for Melbourne on the morning of 27 July, arriving the same day in Melbourne.

The American matches were interspersed among the carnival matches. The American team defeated the Victorian teams on all 3 occasions, the first two matches very easily (14-5 & 15-4) but just scraped in against the Victorian No. 2 team 7-6.

The test match was the final game of the tour in Melbourne, resulting in a win to Australia 8 goals to 5.

Australian and United States of America Lacrosse Teams 1959

AUSTRALIA DEFEATED U.S.A. 8-5 AT MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND



Back Row: T. Swindell (Co-Captain U.S.A.), G. Read, M. Applefeld, A. Gandy, L. Peard, R. Turner, J. McCleary, A. Pearce, W. Thompson, B. Jeffrey, M. Church, G. Lines, H. Bohlman, R. Sloggett (Vice-Captain Australia), D. Nice.

Centre Row: F. Askin (Manager U.S.A.), W. Daw, J. Taylor, R. Johnston, J. Stull, B. Neill, L. Horst, J. Daw, K. Sappington, K. Bemold, J. Storkerson, R. Reddaway, J. Spilman, C. Lea, A. Vial (Manager Australia), A. Taylor (Secretary Australian Lacrosse Council).

Front Row: C. Lea, D. Trainor, D. Feldstein (Co-Captain U.S.A.), R. Keen, R. McHenry (Coach U.S.A.), R. Coldstream (President Australian Lacrosse Council), E. Blacker (Trainer Australia), H. Alley, B. Gomer, J. Dinkel, D. Gomer, H. Tracht.

K ROENNFEELD (AUSTRALIAN COACH) ? D HAMILTON (U.S.A. CAPTAIN) ?

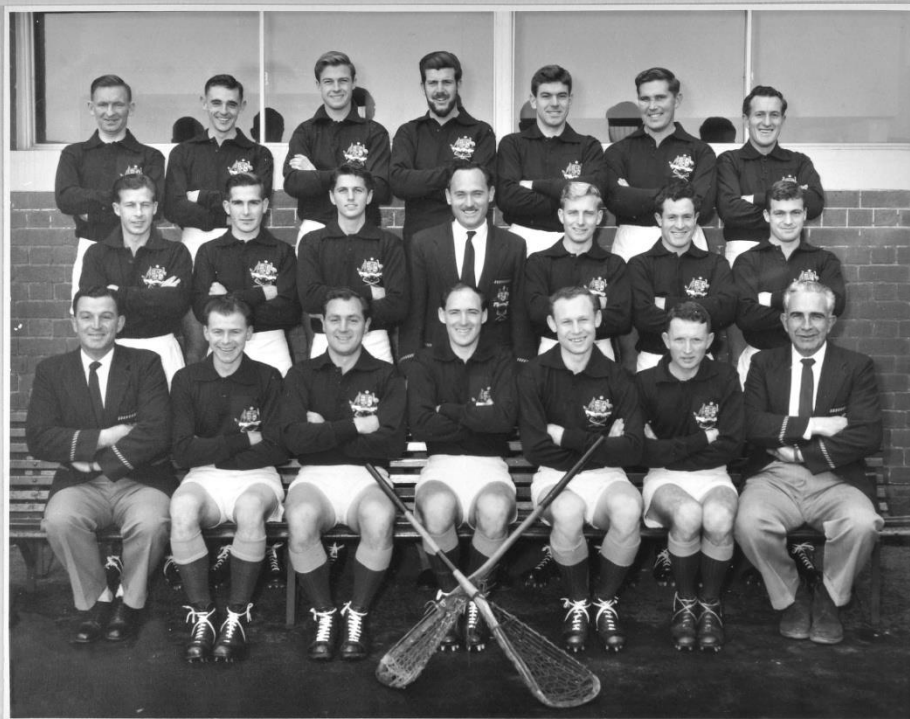
—Geoffrey Baker Studios.

Note the following errors and omissions of the above photograph.

The above photograph does not include John Snyder for whatever reason and C. Lea is named twice, and is correctly shown in the centre row. We believe the player (Number 34) on the far left of the front row is in fact Peter Quesenberry, not Clark Lea (Number 11), who is in the centre row. While the Australian coach (Ken Roennfeld) and Dudley Hamilton are shown in the picture in the front row their names have been added by hand, and the University of Virginia playing coach, George Corrigan, has not been named, but is in the front row, seven from the right of picture, with his arms folded. Number 55 in the middle of the front row is E. "Corky" Briscoe (Captain).

Australian Lacrosse Team 1959

AUSTRALIA DEFEATED U.S.A. 8-5 AT MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND



Back Row: K. Bernald, A. Pearce, B. Jeffrey, R. Turner, G. Lines, G. Read, J. Daw.
Centre Row: R. Keen, D. Gomer, B. Neill, A. Vial (Manager), B. Gomer, W. Daw, D. Trainor.
Front Row: E. Blacker (Trainer), R. Reddaway, R. Johnston, D. Hamilton (Captain), R. Sloggett (Vice-Captain), A. Gandy,
K. Roennfeldt (Coach).

—Geoffrey Baker Studios.

There can be no doubt that the visit of the Americans to Australia revealed international horizons to lacrosse players. Even before the Americans had left there was talk of a return visit to America, and young lacrosse players were advised to save money to be able to make the trip in 1962. The importance of the revolution in transport brought about by the development of long range passenger air-craft made it possible for Australian teams to play in other countries. This was one of the factors that made it possible for the American team to visit Australia. Time was no longer a vital factor. Air travel was necessarily expensive, but problems of finance can be solved if the people concerned are determined and resourceful. It is possible that entirely new relationships between lacrosse players in the world were about to be formed. The potential of the pioneering effect of the visit by the Virginia and Washington and Lee universities cannot be overestimated. What remained to be seen was whether Australian lacrosse authorities could produce leaders of sufficient faith and authority to enable their players to win world recognition.

But the American visit was not the only subject worthy of consideration in 1959. Concurrently with the American visit to Victoria the interstate carnival was carried through. This now traditional contest to decide which state was the Australian champion and the custodian of the Garland - McHarg Cup was very keen.

The results of the matches were, Victoria 15 defeated WA 3, SA 9 defeated Victoria 5, SA 20 defeated WA 1, thus SA won the Garland-McHarg Cup. The Bob Symonds Cup (For annual matches between

Victoria and South Australia) was retained by SA, giving them their third victory in succession, but on this occasion by a vastly reduced margin.

The Brady Trophy, presented for the best and fairest player across the 3 states for the year went to R. Turner (SA). The Brady Trophy was donated by Messrs P.J. Brady, manufacturers of the Brady lacrosse stick, before being replaced by an Australian Trophy for a couple of years, which was replaced in 1963 by the Isaachsen Trophy.

The endeavours of the Promotions Committee were beginning to show beneficial effects. A total number of 43 teams was entered for the pennant competition, with the possibility of four more. Twenty three were in the open age divisions and twenty in the under age divisions.

Among the schools, those of Williamstown, Newport, Footscray, Preston and Sunshine were likely to support teams. Mr Taylor volunteered to sponsor the game at Footscray Technical School. To support him the Executive Committee made available 12 strong sticks and sets of nets to the value of £60-14-0 (Ex Comm 1 April 1959). There was a possibility of introducing lacrosse in Waverley High School, which Mr Lansbury was asked to investigate. The inaugural meeting of a new club to be formed at Chadstone was held at 8p.m on 10 March at Chadstone Park. The future for lacrosse in Victoria looked promising.

The pennant season was carried through successfully. It opened on 18 April, and grand final matches were to be completed by 5 September. All pennant games were suspended on Saturday 1 & 8 August, those being days when international or carnival games would take place.

Some disappointment was felt at the failure to obtain a suitable venue for night lacrosse. It is evident that negotiations with the Albert Park committee had not been successful. The possibility of obtaining the use of the Drill Hall in Batman Avenue was explored. The minutes of the Executive Committee (16 November 1959) reveal that the General Officer Commanding Southern Command was approached concerning the possible use of the Drill Hall for night lacrosse. The request was favourably received, but defence is a federal matter, and the federal authorities moved slowly. At the General Committee meeting (1 December 1959) it was stated that night lacrosse was still in the planning stage, pending a reply from the Department of the Army. At the annual general meeting (17 February 1960) it was stated that the negotiations for the use of the Drill Hall had been unsuccessful because of changes in army policy. The association had been advised to apply again in July.

There seems to have been some likelihood of a revival of the game in Queensland. At the Executive Committee meeting (25 May 1959) a request was received from the Australian Lacrosse Council to pursue enquiries concerning the balance of credit with the Bank of Adelaide for the Queensland Lacrosse Association. It was the continual hope of the Australian Lacrosse Council that the game should be represented in all states of the Commonwealth.

An important initiative in 1959 was the publishing of a lacrosse newsletter. This had been under consideration, and at the Executive Committee meeting (11 November 1959) Mr Gray reported that the production of the newsletter was going according to plan. At the General Committee meeting (1 December 1959) he outlined the possibility of circulating the newsletter, and stated that he had a list of the names and addresses of over 700 former players. This venture could provide many benefits to the association. It would enable a closer accord to be made between the Executive and clubs. It would have considerable potential as a publicity medium.

The season of 1960 might have seemed uneventful after all the excitements and labours of 1959. It was also a testing year; Lacrosse had to show that the opportunities offered by 1959 would indeed be exploited. In Victoria, certainly, the stimulus of the American visit was effective.

This was best demonstrated by the increase in the number of clubs, and of registered players. At the Executive Committee (3 March 1960) an invitation was received from the new Chadstone club to be present at its inaugural meeting. At the meeting (25 March 1960) the Chadstone Cardinals were accepted as an affiliated club, their contours of cardinal red and gold being approved. At the same Executive Committee meeting the Salvation Army Boy's Home was also accepted as a registered

club. At the Executive Committee (14 May 1960) the Chadstone club reported active development and requested further assistance in the provision of sticks required because of the influx of new players. A club having been formed at Clayton, assistance in the provision of sticks and goal nets was requested.

Much interest was shown in developing the game among the state schools. The planners of the state school properties were rarely generous in their provision of playing space around the buildings. Consideration at the General Committee (11 February 1960) was given to modifying the game to make it suitable to state school grounds. With the hope of arousing interest among boys in the primary schools, consideration was given to the formation of an Under 12 section. A copy of the basic rules of the game was provided for sportsmasters. The Executive Committee was pleased to hear of the development of the game at the Burwood Technical School, to whom they granted 12 strong sticks, and an additional 6 at half price. A grant of 12 sticks was made to the Salvation Army Boys Home. The M.C.C section proposed to enter a team in the D section, and also requested help in the provision of sticks. Box Hill High School also requested similar help. The University High School revived its team and entered the mid - week competition.

At the Executive Committee (28 November 1960) A request for financial aid was made by the Williamstown Club to enable the Altona and Tottenham Technical Schools to enter teams in the mid-week competitions. The Williamstown club also supported the entering of a team in D section by the Footscray Technical School.

The outlay on equipment for schools was now considerable, and the Executive Committee (3.3.60) decided to take precaution to protect their investment. They therefore required that proper care and custody of the equipment be guaranteed. Equipment granted to clubs and schools would remain the property of the association for 2 years, after which time the stability of the club would be evident. The equipment would then become the property of the club.

This development was made possible by the removal of import restrictions on lacrosse sticks. We may infer that this took place at this time, for Mr Kinderman was authorised to place an order for 100 sticks from Chisholm's of Canada, and it was reported at the Executive Committee (14 May 1960) that shipment was underway.

The increasing public interest in the game was demonstrated when the "Sporting Globe" offered to give space to reporting lacrosse. Mr Hill of that publication was prepared to write articles if the data was supplied to him.

It was decided that the association would pay 1st class rail fares for the senior team. If members required sleepers they should pay the extra charge.

16 players were to be selected for the Colts team, for which the association would pay 75% of the fares. The junior team would travel 2nd class, using the travelling concession made to school boys.

At the Executive Committee meeting (8 August 1960) the manager of the senior inter- state team was congratulated.

The Colts matches took place in Perth and by teams from the three southern states. This was a tournament in which each team played the others twice. The results were :

Sat. 6 Aug	WA 7	V	Vic 7
Sun 7 Aug	WA 8	V	SA 13
Tues 9 Aug	S.A 9	V	Vic 8
Wed 10 Aug	WA 13	V	Vic 10
Sat 13 Aug	SA 13	V	Vic 10
Sun 14 Aug	WA 5	V	SA 6

The South Australian team thus was the winner of the Hickey Shield.

As can be seen from the scores , all matches were keenly contested. Although the Victorian team failed to win a match, a Victorian player, Ivan Bryning, was named fairest and best. At the Executive Committee meeting (10 October 1960) a letter was received from the Western Australian Lacrosse Association congratulating the Victorians on the conduct of their Colts team.

The Australian entry into world lacrosse seemed imminent. At the annual general meeting the President of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association stated that an invitation had been received from the United States Amateur Lacrosse Association for an Australian team to visit America. The game was strong in America, Canada and England. To demonstrate this he stated that the Ontario association (Ontario being a smaller city than Melbourne) had in one year distributed 10,000 sticks to juniors. Australia had been guaranteed support from England, Canada and the United States if an application was made for the inclusion of lacrosse in the Tokyo Olympic Games.

This constructive season of 1960 ended with promise of important future developments. The President, in his address to the annual general meeting stated that he was confident that the visit of the Americans had given the game in Victoria a great boost. He was gratified by the improved standards of play, especially among juniors. The increase in the number of registered players and new clubs was encouraging. The great event to look forward to was the visit of an Australian team to America, the invitation for which was with the Australian Lacrosse Council and of which details would soon be released. It seemed that the steadiness of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association over the difficult years was now showing its good efforts.

Finally, we arrive at the matter with which the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association was most heavily preoccupied, the visit of an Australian team to the United States of America. This was a huge undertaking which presented difficulties at many levels.

The first of these was convincing club members that effort and expenditure on such a venture was justified. There were members of lacrosse clubs in all states, and especially in Victoria, who disapproved of the already considerable proportion of club funds which was absorbed by interstate games and carnivals. It is obvious, of course, that any moneys available to associations originate from clubs. The expense of conducting annual interstate games against South Australia at two levels was already considerable. Added to this was the expenditure every three years on the Australian Lacrosse Council's championships. Sending a team to the United States would require a lot of money, even if players of sufficient quality could be found who were prepared to pay their own way. This money must be raised over and above the cost of participation in interstate games and carnivals.

The Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association had learned by experience the health of the association depended on willing co-operation with member clubs. The team to visit America was to be an Australian team. It therefore came under the jurisdiction of the Australian Lacrosse Council, and information filtered rather slowly through to state associations. At the Executive Committee meeting (16 March 1961) some concern is evident, for it is stated that the Hon. Secretary had written to the Australian Lacrosse Council for the latest report and details of the proposed American visit. The Victorian association was anxious to enlist the support of clubs from the beginning by keeping them informed of developments. To this end, a special general committee meeting was called (Ex. Comm 6 April 1961) to be held within 14 days.

This meeting took place soon after (11 April 1961) with the express business of ascertaining the views of clubs concerning the visit, and to prepare recommendations to the annual meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council on 8 May 1961.

During the course of the meeting the Hon. Secretary stated that no states had yet given formal approval. This would be resolved at the A.L.C annual meeting on 5 May.

The views of the South Australian association were read to the meeting. They recommended :

- a) The team should be the strongest available;

- b) Twenty-four players should be selected, 8 from each of the active states, Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria.
- c) A coach and a manager should be additional;
- d) The possibility of attracting sponsorship should be explored;
- e) The American association should be asked for the number of men they expected to form the party;
- f) Projects for raising funds should be actively supported;
- g) The question was raised whether the tickets should be return tickets to America or a round trip going through England;
- h) All selected players should be active in fundraising;
- i) All selected players were expected to remain active in the game for at least three years after their return from the United States.

They suggested that the selection of players should be based on :

- a) Equality between the states;
- b) At least 2 university men should be included;
- c) Ability and availability
- d) Officials accompanying the team should be selected by the Australian Lacrosse Council
- e) Each state should be equally represented on the selection committee

The South Australian association recommended that the trip be subsidised. They also were of the opinion that both the trip and the states carnival should be held in 1962.

The Victorian association concurred with most of these views, but differed from them in certain matters. These were :

- a) the number of players selected from the states should be in proportion to the amount of money raised by each state.
- b) the coach should be non-playing
- c) a baggage master should be selected by the manager from among the players;
- d) team secretary and treasurer should be similarly appointed;
- e) the Victorian association recommended that American host clubs be asked to provide a masseur or a first aid man for the Australian team. They did not support the inclusion in the party of a trainer.
- f) the Victorian association recommended the payment of a full fare subsidy to members of the party, but if the funds available proved insufficient, players may be required to pay a portion of their own fare;
- g) taking out personal accident insurance for players should be investigated;
- h) the Council should obtain as soon as possible the details of the rules of the game as played in America.
- i) The United States association should be asked to arrange as soon as possible discussions to bring about uniformity in the rules as they were interpreted in America, Canada and Britain.
- j) The Australian Lacrosse Council should investigate the advisability of protective equipment as might be required in games played under American rules.
- k) The Council should provide the players with uniform sweaters, socks and track suits.

There was only one really controversial matter arising from these additional recommendations, and that was the basis on which the representatives for the international team should be selected. We do not know exactly what brought this contentious note into discussions. We do know from the annual report of the Western Australian association that the American trip received only lukewarm support from their registered players. Probably a similar coolness existed in South Australia. If this was the case, the attitude would have been well known to Victorians through their official and unofficial contacts. Victorian registered players no doubt felt that they were disinclined to subsidize other states who were reluctant to bear their share of the financial load.

The counter-argument would be that, as the team would be an Australian team, the financial responsibility should be between all Australian lacrosse players. As Victoria was the state with much the highest number of registered players it was reasonable that the Victorian association should supply a greater share of money than the less numerous states.

We should be under no illusion the money for the trip had to be raised by comparatively few people. From the report of the Hon. Record Secretary, presented to the annual meeting in 1961 we learn that there was a total of 824 registered players in the Victorian association, 427 of which were juniors. No doubt the parents and supporters of the junior teams would have subscribed to the fund raising schemes of the Victorian association, the financial responsibility for raising funds for the American trip must lie on the 397 senior players. The situation in Western Australia was a total of 488 players. There is no information as to the proportion of senior to juniors, but it is probably similar to that in Victoria. The Western Australians had an active association of past players. The figures for South Australia were no doubt similar to those of Western Australia. This means that Victoria had about the same number of registered players as Western Australia and South Australia combined. It was not unreasonable for Victoria to be expected to raise more money than the other two states towards the expenses of an Australian team. What might have been more pertinent was the number of players representing each state in the composite team. It is probable that the Victorian association would have been happy to contribute its share, but it was not so pleased with the attitude of players in other states. The annual report of the Western Australian association for 1961 states (page 2) :

“Despite early apathy among the clubs, it is most gratifying to report that this state will be represented in the first Australian lacrosse team to tour overseas.”

The South Australian attitude was shown at the meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council at which the South Australian delegate stated that his association withdrew its support of the American visit. It was this sort of apathy which the Victorian association wished to discourage.

Not every state had a member on its Executive with the plans and energy of Mr Noel Jeffrey. Without his efforts the Victorian finances would have been more modest. Through his Special Efforts he raised £5000 towards the American tour. Since 1955 he had raised over £10,000 for the association.

The reaction in Victoria was immediate. They had supported the proposal to send a team to America from the beginning. At a general committee meeting (30 November 1961) they passed the motion “That this meeting resolves that a team should be sent to the U.S.A, in March 1962, opportunity to be given to S.A.L.A and W.A.L.A players of suitable calibre to join the team at their own expense. Applications is to be made to the A.L.C to grant the team recognition as an Australian team.

A sub-committee consisting of Messrs N. Jeffrey. F. Hogarth and C. Weatherill was appointed to take care of all matters appertaining to the successful implementation of the committee's decision to send a team to the U. S. A.

It was also moved that Mr L. Turnbull, the original W.A.L.A nominee for manager, to manage to team, travelling at his own expense as already suggested by himself.

Further information regarding the withdrawal of support for the trip to U.S.A appears in the minutes of the Australian Lacrosse Council. In the record of the A.L.C meeting held in Melbourne 28/29 July 1961 it appears that South Australia supported the project, at least at official levels. Mr K. Roennfeldt was named by the South Australian delegate as the selector for South Australia on the selection committee for the team to visit the U.S.A. The S.A.L.A also presented the name of a South Australian candidate for the position of manager. The South Australian delegate, Mr D. Hobbs, stated that his association had just started a fundraising effort aimed at raising a nett £4000.

He stated that the S.A.L.A had 17 players available, provided that the bulk of the fares was found by the association. It was possible that the number might be increased to 20 or 30. He was confident that, irrespective of the result of the South Australian association's appeal, his state would fill its quota of eight players.

The situation in Western Australia was different. Their delegate, Mr Robinson stated that only three players had stated that they would be available. Despite several meetings and the efforts of several officers, no progress had been made towards raising funds, and Western Australia had no money in hand. There was a general feeling of apathy among members as a whole, who considered that the visit would not be in the best interests of the game in Australia. This view was not shared by senior officials of the association. The apathy amongst members was possibly the result of the intense interest in the forthcoming Empire Games.

At the Council meeting held in Melbourne on 11 November 1961 the clouds began to appear on the horizon. Mr Roennfeldt, the South Australian nominee for Australian coach withdrew his nomination. He did so with reluctance, wished the team every success, and expressed his hope that the visit would do much for the game in Australia and as an International sport. A letter from the South Australian association stated that they expected to provide 8 players, and wished to reserve the right to take up any additional allocations of players from Western Australia.

The Western Australian association was more guarded. They would have one player, perhaps more. The stated delegates were asked if they had anything to add to the information contained in these letters.

The South Australian delegate, Mr Holloway, then said that he had been instructed by his association to withdraw South Australia's entire support for the American visit. Their fundraising effort had been unsuccessful. Only £55 had been raised. With one exception, the players were unwilling to provide their own finance.

The officials of the South Australian association deeply regretted their decision, but player support had been negligible, and it had been necessary to employ a professional fund raiser. His collection amounted to £600, the nett proceeds of which were £55.

The position in Western Australia had changed little. There were two more possibilities of candidates for the team. They had several promises of support from business people which they would follow up.

The Victorian delegate, Mr Ponton, stated that, although the V.A.L.A. was in a position to send more than its quota of players, he could not commit his association to supporting a manager, a coach, and between 21 to 24 players.

A motion was carried that a letter be sent the American lacrosse authorities advising them that the Australian Lacrosse Council was unable to carry out plans made for a team to visit them in 1962. It appears that the letter was not sent. It is not minuted among the correspondence at the next meeting of the A.L.C., which was held on 11 December 1961.

At this meeting a letter was received from the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association asking for A.L.C approval for a team to visit the U.S.A in 1962, and that such a team be classified an Australian team. A list of names of players from Victoria was submitted for ratification, and requesting permission to add such other selected players of suitable calibre as may be available from member associations to the number of 24.

A letter had been received from the South Australian Lacrosse Association, dated 24 November, advising that no players from South Australia wished to be included in the Australian team for the American tour.

The President of the Australian Lacrosse Council stated that he had received information that players in South Australia had not been notified of the opportunity offered to them by the Victorian association. Though he sympathised with the difficulties of the South Australian association, he considered it a serious matter if players willing and able to make the trip were not kept fully informed of the opportunity presented by the invitation of the V.A.L.A.

Mr Turnbull, from Western Australia, the manager designate, supported the allegation. He had asked an S.A.L.A official to arrange for him to meet potential players from South Australia on his way across to Victoria but on reaching Adelaide he found it impossible to do this. He had obtained the addresses of two, possibly three players who might join the team, but he found that the players did not know that efforts to continue the trip were still being made. The general feeling was that if the visit was arranged, South Australia would be represented.

The question then arose as to whether such a composite team should be styled as “an Australian “ team. There was opposition from the South Australian delegate, Mr Church. As it was uncertain if any South Australian players would be included, he felt that the style “Australian” was improper. Any such team should contain representatives from the three states where lacrosse was played. The best players from every state, he insisted should be included in an Australian team. Australia was represented by inferior players. The motion granting permission that the team to America to be called an Australian team was put and carried by two votes to one, Mr Church dissenting.

The situation concerning the expenses of sending the team to the U.S.A were made clear.

Each member shall go on condition that he is responsible for his own fare and personal expenses.

Players would deal directly with their state associations as to what proportion of their fare and expense should come from their own pockets.

No association would be responsible for the fare and expenses of players of another association, or of the managers and coach.

This was the situation at the end of 1961. A firm commitment had been made to arrange for the visit of the Australian team to the United States. The tour was to begin in March, 1962. Much work had still to be done, and the difficulties facing the Australian Lacrosse Council were still great. The account of this momentous first overseas tour by an Australian team are among the important activities of the 1962 season, as are other developments in the progress of Australian and Victorian lacrosse. The Footscray Women's Lacrosse Club was formed in 1961 and given they had connections with the Footscray Hockey Club they used the same uniform. Mrs Pearson was the inaugural president and Mrs Rodgers the secretary. The club got off to a fledgling start playing intra club games during that year.

The Victorian Women's Amateur Lacrosse Association was formed in 1962 and the first season was undertaken with teams from Footscray, Malvern and two teams from Williamstown.

It took until 1962 for women's lacrosse in Victoria to recommence. With support from Mal Taylor, a stalwart of the Williamstown Lacrosse Club, 4 teams were formed (Williamstown (2), Footscray and Malvern). Mrs Joy Parker (Former secretary of the Victorian Women's Amateur Lacrosse Association) became president of the newly reformed women's association. Footscray won the inaugural premiership, and again in 1963.

The SA Women's Lacrosse Association was founded in 1961 and the first competition games played in 1962. The first teams in the competition were Brighton and Plympton High Schools, Kinkajous and Wallabies.

With lacrosse sticks in Australia in short supply, the South Australian Women's lacrosse Association sold 12 women's sticks to the Victorian association for £4.

In 1962, Mal Taylor noted an advertisement in an Adelaide newspaper for women to play lacrosse. Mr Taylor used this as an avenue to create an interstate match. Under the guidance of Mrs Joy Parker, the Australian Women's Lacrosse Council (AWLC) was formed. Mrs Parker became the inaugural president following the first interstate match between Victoria and South Australia, with Mrs Titter appointed secretary and Mrs L. Rolley appointed treasurer

The activities undertaken in 1962 were important, varied, and opened opportunities for development which, if adequately exploited, could raise lacrosse in Australia to a level as yet undreamed of.

The activities were at three distinct levels :

- a). International
- b) Interstate
- c). Domestic

As the international level was the most significant departure from current practice, we shall consider it first.

The season of 1961 concluded with a visit to the United States of America and possibly Great Britain having been sanctioned by the Australian Lacrosse Council. The assent was given grudgingly, and then only because the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association intimated that they were prepared to organise the tour themselves if the Council could not see its way to carrying it out. The South Australian association had failed lamentably in its attempts to raise funds for the International tour, and Western Australia had done little better. There seemed to be a sharp divergence between the views of the administrators and those of the rank-and file players and supporters in those states. A possible explanation was the imputed difference in the numbers of registered players in those states compared with Victoria: however, figures given at the Australian Lacrosse Council's annual general meeting (3 August 1962) do not support this view. The figures given were that South Australian association numbered 713 registered players, The Western Australian association was believed to have about 500, and the figures for Victoria were 879. Discrepancies in strength do not appear to be a sufficient explanation for the limited support given by South Australia and Western Australia. It seems clear that the majority of players could not see the benefits conferred on the game by such an ambitious undertaking.

Following upon this apathy serious friction arose in the Australian Lacrosse Council itself. Even while the arrangements were at their most critical, their Hon. Secretary, Mr Goslin, who had given outstanding service to the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association, showed a contumacious spirit. He had resigned from the V.A.L.A executive on the grounds of pressure of business, but he had retained his position as Hon. Secretary of the Australian Lacrosse Council. His apology for his absence from the council meeting, held in Melbourne on 8 March 1962, was accepted, but he failed to provide the minutes of the previous meeting. The meeting accepted, as a basis for discussion, the record kept by the South Australian delegate. The meeting transacted much important business concerning the overseas tour, business was not concluded, and the meeting was adjourned, to resume at 11.30am at the office of the A.L.C President at 179 Flinders Lane. Mr R. Goslin was directed to attend. Mr Goslin attended, and state delegates addressed several questions to Mr Goslin concerning events in his capacity as A.L.C Honorary Secretary. The nature of the questions is not specified in the minutes. The meeting was again adjourned, to be resumed at 5.45p.m. Present were Mr R. Coldstream, President, Mr A. Vial, SALA delegate, Mr L. Turnbull, WALA delegate and Mr R. Ponton (VALA delegate). The WALA delegate reported the details of an interview between the three state delegates and Mr Brewer, of Stewart Moffat Travel P/L. The SALA delegate also tabled a letter he received from Mr G. S. Moffat, Managing Director of Stewart Moffat P/L

As a result of the information, the meeting decided that Mr Goslin be asked to tender his resignation as Hon. Secretary of the Australian Lacrosse Council.

The meeting went into recess, during which time the Victorian and the Western Australian delegates called at his home to collect, on behalf of the council, the Brady Trophy, touring team momentos, and the Airways ticket issued in Mr Goslin's name. They also gave him the opportunity to tender his resignation as A.L.C Hon Secretary. He relinquished the Brady Trophy and the team momentos, but would not commit himself to co-operation with the Council in respect of the airways ticket. He refused to tender his resignation.

The Council therefore relieved Mr Goslin of his duties as Hon. Secretary, to take effect forthwith, and directed that all records and property of the ALC in his possession should be in the hands of the acting Hon. Secretary no later than 6.00p.m on Friday 16th (i.e one week later)

Mr R. Ponton, the Victorian delegate, was then formally appointed Hon. Secretary of the Australian Lacrosse Council.

Mr Goslin was apparently obdurate. At the next meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council (10 April 1962) the Council decided to place the matter in the hands of a solicitor, the first step being that a solicitors letter be sent to Mr Goslin requesting the immediate handing over of all ALC property in his possession.

By the A.L.C meeting of 29 June Mr Goslin had not complied with the directions.

Whatever the substance of the charges may have been, it seems a sordid business, which the Australian Lacrosse Council, engaged in all the complications of launching the first international Australian lacrosse team could well have done without.

Thus in spite of apathy from two states, disturbances within the Australian Lacrosse Council, and details of the English section of the tour still incomplete, and the Hon. Secretary of the Council (20 April 1962) stating that he had no information concerning the United Kingdom section of the tour, the touring party assembled in Melbourne, and took the plane to Sydney at 12 noon. There they were greeted by two stewards of lacrosse, Alan Bamford and Alan Vial. They caught the Pan American Boeing jet 707 to Honolulu, leaving there at 6.30 p.m for Los Angeles, where they arrived at 2a.m. At 9a.m the next morning, they departed for Washington, where they were welcomed by members of the American tour committee, Messrs George Corrigan, Bob McHenry, Tom Swindell and B. Hice and other supporters. **Mr Hice had been a member of the American team which visited Australia in 1907.** A reception was held at the airport lounge, with speeches of welcome and suitable replies. The newspapers gave their arrival publicity, as did television stations. After the formalities they left for the University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Australian Lacrosse Team - 1962 International Tour



Back Row: D. Trainor, G. Minniece, T. Campbell, K. Atkins, J. Stammers, E. Toomey, C. Eddy, P. Humphreys
 Centre Row: H.E. Sterck, (Secretary), J. Martin, I. Bryning, I. Jewitt, R. Ramsay, N. Melville, N. Jeffrey, F. Neill, B. Griffin, C. Weatherill (Coach)
 Front Row: F.F. Durham (Ass. Mngr), G. Hill, L. Goding, D. Miller (Capt), L.S. Turnbull (Manager), A. Pearce (V. Capt), F. Poat, P. Hogg, R. Coldstream (President)

They soon found that the game of lacrosse as played in America was very different from that played in Australia. "After a study of the rules and actually playing in the U.S.A our Australian touring party agreed lightheartedly that the only similarities between our game and theirs were the ball, the racquet and the goals. The rules were so far apart that basically the games are entirely different". (Coach's Report 1962,p.3)

The differences in the rules were not the only conditions with which the Australians had to contend. Many of the rules were deemed beneficial to the game and worth incorporating in the Australian code. The American teams were much bigger than the Australians. As the team secretary, Mr H. E. Sterck wrote in his report: "It was not unusual to find several American footballers playing lacrosse. Compared with Australian lacrosse player (average height 5'8" and 10 stone) they appeared giants (6 to 7 feet tall and weighing 16 stone)." This discrepancy in size must be considered together with the greater degree of physical contact permitted in the American rules. The American commentator Doug Gould, of the Diamond Back Sports, Maryland University, wrote: "The Australians are small as lacrosse teams go but make up for their lack of size with speed and aggressiveness such as is little seen in American lacrosse." The cumulative effects of physical weight began to tell on the touring team with a heavy schedule of matches.

Another situation new to Australians was the deployment of substitutes as practised in America. This no doubt reflected the conditions of American football, but it seems that substitutes could be introduced at any time, for any reason and in any number. This may be seen from statistics given in results given by the team manager, Mr H. E. Sterck.

Australia	v	Duke University:	Australia used 20 players;
			Duke University 24 players
Australia	v	Virginia University:	Australia used 21 players;

Australia v Maryland University: Virginia University used 25 players
 Australia used 19 players;
 Maryland University used 34 players
 and so on.

The details of matches played, commencing on 15 March and concluding in the U.S. on 16 April are:

Match 1	v	Duke University	5	Aust	14
2	v	University of Virginia	19	Aust	15
3	v	Washington & Lee	8	Aust	10
4	v	Maryland	19	Aust	4
5	v	Naval Academy, Annapolis	17	Aust	8
6	v	Baltimore Lacrosse Club	17	Aust	10
7	v	Johns Hopkins University	16	Aust	9
8	v	Rutgers	18	Aust	11
9	v	Princeton	11	Aust	11
10	v	Philadelphia Lacrosse Club	12	Aust	8
11	v	West Point Army Academy	15	Aust	3

Other matches played in England:

v	Oxford/Cambridge combined universities Cambridge -	Oxford 2	Australia 21
v	North of England Lacrosse Association	N.E.L.A 4	Australia 13
	England	England 7	Australia 5

English rules were similar to Australian rules, and the Australian team felt more at home on the ground than they did in America.

From an International point of view the tour of the Australian team was timely. The rules of the game in the various countries playing it had diverged widely; and the population from which lacrosse drew its followers had widely diverged.

Australia still adhered to the principles of amateurism. The Victorian association included "amateur" in its title. But it was in a world where the amateur concept was being rapidly eroded. Its main supporters came from professional men and executives in business. Its main recruiting grounds were the state high and technical schools. This almost certainly would lead to a change in the social structure of the lacrosse population. It was certainly a game played for recreation rather than profit. Amateurism was genuine enough for all the members of the Australian team to have paid their own fares, which for Western Australia and South Australian players amounted to £871 each, and for Victorians £850 each. (Managers Report, P1).

The English approach to the game was similar to the Australian. The Coach's report (p 10) states :
 "The English approach to lacrosse seems to be one of a pleasant Saturday afternoon sport"
 "From enquiries made I would say that lacrosse in universities and schools is much more popular than in Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia. There seems to be about the same number of district clubs as in our three states".

Nevertheless, the interpretation of the rules varied from what would have been accepted in Australia. "Our forwards were confused with the umpires interpretation of the rules, as he did not give them the protection that the rules obviously allowed, with the result that a few nasty incidents occurred." (Coach's report, p 10).

Though the discrepancies seem to have been minor, it becomes clear that, before lacrosse could be played internationally, unified specification and application of the rules was necessary.

A summary of the American rules is provided in the coach's report. Its main points are :

MARKING OF FIELD

This includes an area of 15 yards behind the goals, a distance of 80 yards between the goals, restraining lines 20 yards from each goal, and an off-side line a further 20 yards, dividing the playing field into two equal halves

OFFICIALS

The game is controlled by two officials, the referee and the umpire. Their duties are equal, except that in disputes the referee's decision is final.

TEN - A- SIDE

The positions are 3 straight defence, equivalent to the Australian point, cover -point and third man; there are three straight attacks, equivalent to the Australian 1st, 2nd, and 3rd homes; and the midfielders who play both attack and defence, similar to the Australian centre player. The goal - keeper makes up the team

THE FACE OFF AT THE CENTRE

The game is started and after each goal by the referee placing the ball between the players in the centre and resting on the wooden walls of the racquets which rest on the ground. When the referee sounds his whistle to start play, each player may attempt to direct the course of the ball by a movement of his racquet in any manner he desires.

At the face-off the goal-keeper and the three other players are confined in the defence area (20 yards from the centre), three players in the attack area (20 yards from the centre), and one player in each of the wing areas, also lines 20 yards from the centre. On the whistle, the players in the wing areas are released for play. All other players are confined to their areas until any player of either team has gained possession of the ball, the ball gone out of bounds or the ball crosses either goal area line.

BALL OUT OF BOUNDS

A ball out of bounds is a penalty against the team who touched it last, except :

1. When a loose ball goes over the boundary as a result of a shot or deflected shot at the goal the nearest man as the ball goes over the line gets possession:
2. When the ball goes out of bounds as the result of a face-off , it shall be faced-off again at the same place the face-off took place

OFF SIDE

The off-side line is drawn through the centre of the playing area from one side of the ground to the other. A team is not "off side" when it has at least three men in the attacking half of the field and at least four men in the defending half of the field.

BODY CHECKING

Bodychecking of an opponent in possession of a ball or within 15 feet of a loose ball, from the front or side, initial contact being above the knee. (You are allowed to run at a man to execute a bodycheck, which in the Australian game constitutes a charge)..

CHECKING WITH RACQUET

A player may check his opponent's racquet with his own racquet when the opponent has possession of the ball or when the ball is within 15 feet either in flight or loose. Upchecks are legal.

OFFENSIVE SCREENING

A player whose team mate has the ball may screen off his mate's opponent provided he himself is stationary. That is, the player with the ball can manoeuvre so that an opponent in pursuit runs into a stationary player.

FREE THROW

When a player has been awarded the ball for any reason no player may take up a position closer to him than 10 yards.

GOAL CREASE AND GOAL KEEPER

The goal crease- a circle - is marked by using the mid-point of the goal line as the centre and drawing a circle round this line with a radius of 9 feet. No opposing player may interfere with the goal keeper while he is within the goal crease whether he has the ball in his possession or not, although an attacking player may reach within the crease area to play a loose ball so long as he does not interfere with the goal keeper.

An attacking player shall not go within the opponent's goal crease area at any time when the ball is within the attacking half of the field.

A defending player with the ball in his possession may not enter the goal crease area.

The goalkeeper with the ball in his possession may not re-enter the goal crease area. Nor may he remain in the area longer than is necessary to step out of the crease.

PERSONAL FOULS

For personal fouls the penalty is suspension from the game for one to three minutes. Personal fouls include :

Illegal Bodychecks

Any bodycheck of an opponent who is not in possession of the ball or within 5 yards of a loose ball is illegal. Any bodycheck from the rear is illegal.

Slashing

A player must not swing his racquet with vindictiveness or reckless abandon. Nor shall a player strike an opponent in an attempt to dislodge the ball from his racquet. However, an opponent is not permitted to place any part of his body except his head to prevent an opponent from hitting his racquet. Any strike on the head by a racquet of an opponent is illegal.

Tripping

A player is not permitted to trip an opponent with any part of his body or racquet.

Unnecessary Roughness

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

e.g. Argue with officials, using profane or obscene language during a game.

Expulsion Fouls

Penalty is expulsion for the remainder of the game. A player may be substituted for the expelled man after three minutes. An expulsion foul consists of striking or attempting to strike an opponent, non-playing member, coach or anyone officially connected with an opponents squad, or anyone controlling the game with the hand, racquet, ball or otherwise.

TECHNICAL FOULS

For technical fouls the penalty is either suspension from the game for 30 seconds if the offending team does not have the ball at the time of the offence, or simply loss of the ball if it does have possession. Technical fouls include :

Illegal Offensive Blocking

An offensive player must not move into and make contact with a defensive player who is in pursuit of an opponent with the ball.

Holding

A player shall not hold a player or his racquet in any manner.

Pushing

A player shall not push an opponent with his hands, arm or other part of his body unless the opponent has possession of the ball or is within 5 yards of the ball. A player must never push an opponent with his racquet.

Touching The Ball

Withholding The Ball From Play

A player must not lie on a loose ball or trap it in the stick longer than is necessary to pick it up.

Illegal Action With The Racquet

A player must not throw his racquet or take part in the game without it.

Slow Whistle Technique

This is a technique similar to the "advantage rule" as it is known in Australian rules football. The referee indicates a breach of the rules, but, if the attacking player is disadvantaged by the penalty play is allowed to go on. Should the movement be foiled, the player may then be granted the penalty.

After experiencing the American rules, the touring party decided that the Australian game would benefit if some of the American rules were adopted.

The majority of players favoured:

- a. Field marking
- b. Ten-a-side, with substitutes limited to four, changeable at quarter, half and three quarter time only, or for an injured player.
- c. Out-of bounds rule.
- d. Off-side
- e. Offensive screening
- f. Body clashes from side when ball is loose and opponent is 10 feet from the ball. Whenman has ball our existing bodycheck should apply.
- g. Penalty box, with established penalty for personal, expulsion and technical fouls.

As the coach of the touring team pointed out, it was one thing to see the rules on paper and another to experience them in action. To fulfil this need an organisation came into being in Victoria under the title of the "Green Ball" Club. This consisted of a group of players, most of whom had had experience of the American game, who stage exhibition matches to demonstrate the game as it would be under the revised rules. This is first mentioned in the minutes of the General Committee meeting held on 3 September 1962. At this meeting attention was drawn to the exhibition match which the "Green Ball" Club would stage at Caulfield on 9 September. Mr C. Weatherill, coach of the overseas team, was invited to address the meeting. He gave the background to the formation of the "Green Ball " Club , and the origin of the name. He also gave an outline of the playing rules of the match.

At a special Executive Committee meeting (17 September 1962) twelve members of the overseas team were present by invitation. Mr. F. Durham, Secretary of the "Green Ball" club, gave an outline of the club and its activities to date. He told the meeting that the club had:

1. Visited by invitation various clubs to lecture on rules, and the overseas trip in general.
2. Staged an exhibition match
3. Outlined plans for the expansion of the club.

The "Green Ball" club considered that certain aspects of the American game should not be incorporated in the Australian code of rules. Among these were the "Poke check", the "Lip-check", charging or "Free Arm" rules.

At this special executive meeting it was evident that the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association supported the propositions of the "Green Ball" club. It was suggested that the "Green Ball" club should hold a round table conference in Adelaide at the conclusion of the exhibition match to be staged there in the near future, so that a second member association of the Australian Lacrosse Council should understand the possible new rules to be presented for the consideration of the Council. The "Green Ball" club considered it essential that the standard of lacrosse in Australia must improve, particularly in refereeing, if Australia was to compete successfully in international matches, and if the game was to grow locally.

At the general committee (26 November 1962) it was resolved that the "Green Ball" club be recommended to the Australian Lacrosse Council.

In conclusion, it is to be noted that Australia was in a peculiarly effective position to influence the formulation of the international rules of lacrosse. It must be remembered that there were thousands of American service men who had visited Australia during World War II. Though there are happier occasions for making international acquaintances, the Australian team was received everywhere with the greatest cordiality. Their discussions of lacrosse with American administrators had been frank, full, and harmonious. The Australians on the 1962 international tour knew what the Americans were ready to concede in the interests of establishing an International code, and what they would retain with stubborn determination. The Australian members of the overseas tour appreciated that many of the divergences evident in American lacrosse improved the game.

As a result of the rather hastily improvised "World Series" it was clear that an international code was necessary. The Australian contingent had had the opportunity of playing the game according to American, Canadian, English and Australian rules. Their representatives were in an excellent situation to arbitrate between the various points of view. What would be the outcome of international deliberations lay concealed in the future, but Australia by its international contacts, and by its internationally acclaimed prowess, was in a favourable position to exert leadership.

No doubt the constituent states of the Australian Lacrosse Council needed to analyse the benefits against the difficulties of international competition. The states which had supported the 1962 tour with reluctance now had the opportunity to reconsider their views. The conclusion of the 1962 season opened the way for Australia to become a leader in an old and traditional game. Whether the men actually involved would rise to their opportunity remained to be seen.

But while Australians were engaged in such momentous enterprises, they still must maintain the traditional contests and links which had brought Australian lacrosse to the excellence it already achieved. Not the least of these were the triennial carnivals, to be called from 1962, the Australian championships. In 1962 South Australia was to host the first of these championships. Victoria, with its heavy involvement in the 1962 overseas tour, would find its interstate team deficient in experienced interstate players. It was unlikely that many of the touring team, who had already been absent from their businesses for eight weeks, would be able to arrange further leave of absence for the interstate championship. This gave inexperienced players, who normally would not have been seriously considered for Intermediate honours, the opportunity to show their work.

The first specific action in Victoria concerning interstate games was to accept the carnival dates as proposed by the South Australian Lacrosse Association. They were the hosts for the 1962 carnival. A rearrangement of matches was suggested to relieve the Western Australian team of having to play four consecutive matches. The suggestion that the first match between South Australia and Victoria,

to be played on Saturday 28 July should decide the winner of the Symonds Cup. The Executive accepted the invitation of the South Australia association to send a junior team to Adelaide to play a match between a South Australian association junior team as a curtain-raiser to the South Australia v. Western Australia carnival match on Saturday, 4 August. This match should decide the fate of the Carl Schultz Cup. It was with regret that they had to decline the invitation for the junior team to visit Western Australia, it being felt that financing the senior team's visit to South Australia for the carnival would absorb the available finance. However, they assured the Western Australian association that they would favourably consider such an invitation in two or three years time. They emphasised that sending junior teams interstate was not to be taken as a precedent for the establishment of regular junior carnivals (7 May 1962).

Having decided that the Victorian association would be represented at the 1962 carnival in Adelaide, action had to be taken to prepare the team. It was decided that training for both the senior and junior interstate training squads should begin at 10 a.m, 10 June, and be continued at the same time every week until the teams departed for Adelaide. Clubs were invited to nominate their candidates for the training squads by 31 May. The selectors were given authority to nominate any players not put forward by clubs if they wished to do so. The clubs were also invited to nominate candidates for the panel of coaches and for the selection sub-committee. At the executive meeting (21 May 1962) it was decided that the names of the Interstate teams should be published three weeks before the date of their matches. At the executive committee (6 June 1962) the interstate coaches were appointed. The coach of the senior team was Mr. C. Weatherill, and of the junior Mr. T. Allington. The selection committees appointed were :

Senior team: Messrs F. Durham, F. Hogarth, C. F. Lansbury

Junior team: Messrs E. Clough, J. T. Daw Snr, A. Pearson.

Mr F. Durham was appointed manager of the senior team and Mr. C. F. Lansbury the junior team. Mr Durham did not travel to Adelaide and Mr Jock Liddell was appointed manager.

It was decided also that the association pay second class return rail fares for the players, managers and coaches of both teams.

A pleasing move was made when Mr. F. Durham was asked to enquire into the cost of a suitable V.A.L.A flag. At a subsequent meeting (18 June 1962) he was authorised to spend up the £12.0.0 for the flag. It would seem that having the flag made exceeded the allowance, for at the meeting 9 July 1962, Mr Durham's action concerning the flag was endorsed and the full amount of the cost of the flag was paid. On 9 July the teams had been selected and were ratified by the Executive Committee.

The Victorian senior carnival team was, as the annual report stated, consisted almost of players new to interstate lacrosse, as almost all the experienced, top-line beneficial effect of allowing more players than usual the opportunity of training with the state squad, and of representing the state. The results of the carnival were:

South Australia	19	d.	Victoria	3
South Australia	24	d.	Western Australia	8
Victoria	11	d.	Western Australia	3
South Australia	22	d.	Western Australia	7
South Australia	16	d.	Victoria	5
Victoria	16	d.	Western Australia	5

Thus the South Australian team claimed the distinction of being champions of Australia, and custodians of the Garland - McHarg Cup, and the Symonds Memorial Cup. Mr. A. Jennings of South Australia, won the A.L.C trophy for the most outstanding player of the championship series.

In the junior competition Victoria defeated South Australia by 25 goals to 10.

There were encouraging signs that a New South Wales association would once more be represented on the Australian Lacrosse Council. At the annual general meeting (30 June 1962). it was stated that there was support for the establishment of lacrosse in New South Wales. Through a Mr Skimmer of Adelaide, the names and addresses of several interested men could be obtained. Mr Dodd, Mr A.

Bamford, Mr N. Robson and Mr A.Kempton were among the likely supporters of the move. There was evident interest also in Queensland. Mr. Val Ellis was to be acquainted with the amount of the balance in the account of the previous Queensland association, and the name of Mr. Cam. West was given as having a possible connection with the subject. The Australian Lacrosse Council was anxious to do all it could to restore the status of lacrosse to a truly Australian Commonwealth game.

The design of this chapter may appear to be similar to that of the builder who first put on the roof and then proceeded to erect the walls and lay the foundations; for the foundation upon which all other features rest is the active functioning of the game at club level, and among the ranks of the players. The season opened on Saturday, 28 April and the season would conclude with the grand final on Saturday, 1st September. The open age players were to be divided into three sections, A, B, and C. It was pleasing to note that a new club was formed in the west, the Newport Lacrosse Club, again due to the encouragement of Mal Taylor from Williamstown.

It was proposed that under age selections should be changed from Under 16, Under 14 and Under 12 to Under 15 and Under 14. The decision was that there should be A, B, and C senior sections, with Under 16, Under 14 and Under 13 in the junior sections. Altogether 58 teams were entered 27 of which were in the senior sections. Home and away fixtures were to continue during the period of the carnival in Adelaide.

Success does not lie in the current season. It is the result of wise planning and effective implementation of the planning of the past. It is imperative therefore to consider the contribution made to lacrosse by the development programmes carried through, or instituted, in any given season. The 1962 season was one in which the association, through its executive, showed wisdom in immediate decisions and foresight for the future.

We do not need further to comment on the international tour. It was no doubt the greatest advance in development for 50 years. Nominally it was a project of the Australian Lacrosse Council, but it carved out because of the persistence, drive and financial support of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association.

The association continued its policy of making grants in assistance for new clubs being formed or for the development of newly established clubs. A sub-committee consisting of Messrs C. F. Lansbury, F. Hogarth and W. Collins was appointed to investigate requests for assistance (Ex. Comm. 5 March 1962). The Waverley High School was given an assurance that it would receive such assistance as was necessary for a team to be entered in the 1963 season.

A matter that was giving some concern to the association was the number of young players from junior and school teams who did not go on with the game in senior sections. This loss is common to all games and there are many reasons for it, but the proportion who did go on with the game seemed small in relation to the energy and money expended in encouraging junior teams. No doubt there was a lack of contact between some school teams and local clubs. Furthermore, those clubs which actively supported junior teams seemed to become the strongest. In the total of premierships Malvern, Caulfield and Williamstown won two each; and these clubs were active in promoting the game among juniors. To try to reduce this loss of potential players, the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association appointed a liaison officer whose responsibility lay in putting local clubs in touch with young players about to leave school who were in the district served by a local club. (Ex. Comm. 21 May 1962). The executive remained sensitive towards the encouragement of junior players. Under a committee consisting of Messrs W.L. Gray, F. Hogarth, C.F. Lansbury, R. Ponton and H. Sterck they successfully conducted the junior gymkhana at the Malvern Cricket Ground on the Queen's Birthday public holiday.

A development sub-committee was appointed (3 July 1962) to examine ways of increasing public interest in lacrosse, and of attracting more players. The success of any such plans depends entirely on the support given by clubs and individual members. With this in mind, a special general committee meeting was held on the 8th August, when the development sub-committee reported on its activities. Discussion followed, after which a 'Brain Storm' session was conducted. Club delegates were given writing materials, and at the end of a set time the papers were gathered up. They were then passed around and further discussion encouraged. The executive was doing all it could to entice clubs to

involve themselves in the problems of development. One outcome was the provision of the Garnet Peagram Memorial Trophy, a perpetual trophy to record the name of the best and fairest player in the Under 16 competition.

Closely associated with development is publicity. The Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association felt that the newspapers, radio and television gave little encouragement to amateur sport. They therefore approached other amateur associations with the proposition of increasing the lobbying power of amateur sportsmen. To this end they entered into correspondence with the Victorian Amateur Baseball Association and with the Victorian Amateur Hockey Association.

The season of 1962 was one of the most important in the history of lacrosse in Victoria, and, indeed in general. It had laid the foundations for international contests on a wide basis. In doing so it had saved the game from disintegrating into a number of associated games, as has been the case in football. In 1962 the American code had already diverged far from the game as played in other countries, and in Canada, at any rate at the amateur level, only six-a-side lacrosse was played. By showing how the 20th century revolution in transport had conquered time, the Australian tour demonstrated the feasibility of international tours. It took them now less time to go to America than it had previously been needed to visit Queensland or Western Australia. World Championships were seen to be practical developments. In 1962 the Australian Lacrosse Council invited the English universities to send a touring team to Australia in 1968, and the United States universities in 1965. Such tours are expensive, and it was necessary to strengthen the home base to raise the money necessary to finance such ventures.

An important development, for which the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association could claim no direct credit, was the formation of a Women's Lacrosse Association in South Australia and Victoria. As was the mode of the times, the men's and women's associations were quite separate and autonomous, but the V.A.L.A. would give any assistance it could. The success of such women's associations would certainly increase the potential spectators support of interstate and international games.

No record appears to be available for 1963-1965 for men's lacrosse.

We do note that Essendon Lacrosse Club was reformed in 1963, and Altona, Eltham and Glenroy lacrosse clubs formed in 1964. The key person in starting or reforming all of these clubs other than Eltham was Mal Taylor, who was a stalwart of lacrosse in Williamstown and in the western suburbs. In women's lacrosse because of their superiority over the two preceding years Footscray was forced to divide their numbers and enter two teams, and again won the A grade grand final against Williamstown.

The Footscray women's lacrosse team also travelled to Adelaide and played a match against the Brighton team, known as the Brighton Kinkajous (Named after a small obscure South American rainforest mammal).

A women's state team was selected in 1964 and assume they played S.A. The first national women's championships were played in Perth in 1965 between South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia, with South Australia defeating Victoria 15-4.

1966

In many ways lacrosse is unique. Not only does it arise from great antiquity, nor provide a unique game, using equipment derived from primitive sources, but in Australia at least it has produced a number of men whose devotion to the game has been profound and of long duration. During the season of 1966 one of these men died, and was given a well deserved obituary notice in the annual report of that season.

Mr Robert Coldstream was a life-long supporter of the game, for more than sixty years he gave his wisdom, his strength and his fortitude to the welfare of his beloved game. He was President of the Malvern Lacrosse Club for twenty-four years. President of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association for nine years. He had also been President of the Australian Lacrosse Council. He was

of such a quality that at the conclusion of his address to the Centurion Club, held at the House of Commons, at the conclusion of the tour of the first Australian overseas team, he was given a standing ovation. There is something very special about a game which produces such men. Perhaps, when administrators are seeking ways to attract support for the game, they would be well rewarded by analysing just what it is that attracts such men to the game. They might also examine what is in the characteristics of the games that gives so much fascination to its devotees.

As to the season of 1966, it proceeded satisfactorily through its domestic season, it provided a fine inter-state series, and laid the foundation for an important overseas tour.

At the executive committee meeting (10 January 1966) the details of the domestic season were drawn up. The first open home game would be played on Saturday, 16 April, and the last on Saturday 13 August. The under age competitions would end on 30 July, the semi-finals would be played on 6 August, and the finals of Saturday 13 August. For the open competition there would be two semi-finals on Saturday, 20 August, the preliminary final on Saturday 27 August, and the grand final on 3 September. For the A grade, the first semi-final would take place on Saturday 20 August, the second on 27 August, the final on 3 September, the season concluding with the A grade grand final on Saturday, 10 September.

This seems merely a dull, repetitive list of dates until one examines the details behind them. First of all, team entries must be submitted. Then teams must be arranged in suitable grades. Grounds must be provided, marked and prepared. Referees must be found and allocated to their respective games. The preparations for a season of home and home games being much work to many people, both at club and association level. It is one thing to draw up lists and fixtures, but it is quite another to make it all work. And it all functioned well. There were no serious breaches of sportsmanship or foul play. The reduction in the number of registered players was halted, the number in 1966 being 869, an increase of 68 or 8.489%. The biggest increase was in the open age members, which rose by 63. The under age registrations showed an increase of only nine, which may have caused some concern. These figures were reached in spite of the resignations of 40 non-playing members. The total of team entries remained the same as in 1965, and there was an increase of one in the number of clubs.

Registrations of juniors was always a chancy thing. So much depended upon the services of individual members of staffs at schools. The Salvation Army Boy's Home's team provided an example. Mr P. Simpson had established the team and nurtured it. He had been its secretary and delegate; but he was obliged to relinquish these responsibilities because he was being transferred to Perth. The club, thus being bereft of its coach and administrator, might be obliged to withdraw. The association approached the Surrey Park club and the Green Ball club for help :(Ex. Comm. 16 February 1966). The Green Ball club undertook the responsibility (Ex. Comm. 16 March 1966) and it was reported that Mr. T. Campbell coached the team once a week. Other junior clubs were not as fortunate. The Waverley High School's club found itself in difficulties, and the association decided to form a sub-committee of three to administer the club's affairs, but there were no nominations. The Bentleigh - McKinnon Youth Centre was in a similar position, and Messrs. C. Middleton, T. Allington and N. Jeffrey accepted the nomination.

In spite of these difficulties, the association maintained its policy of encouraging lacrosse in schools. They directed the Hon Secretary to send a letter to all clubs seeking the names of teachers and students playing lacrosse and the names of the schools they attended. They also appointed a sub-committee of three to encourage, advise and supervise the formation of new clubs in high and technical Schools. Messrs. V Murray and F. Durham were appointed, with power to co-opt.

The home and away competition was arranged in A, B, C, and D grades in the open age competition, E, F and G in the under age.

The winner of the fairest and best trophy for players in A grade was won by Mr D. Fox (Melbourne University). The Garnet Peagram trophy for the fairest and best player in E Grade (Under 16) was

won by D. Nolan (Footscray) despite the fact that he didn't play a game in that grade as Footscray could not field a team, but his award was based on votes received in C grade that year.

The development of an association ground in Victoria received attention during 1966, perhaps not all of it favourable. Discussions were stimulated by an offer from the Caulfield club of an interest-free loan to the association for erecting dressing facilities at the Marlborough Street ground.

Mr Taylor opposed the development of the Marlborough Street ground on the grounds that it was too far from the western suburbs. In this he was supported by Mr Newbold. The objection no doubt was valid, but if the association wished to establish its own ground and head-quarters, it must be at a location in one or other of the outer suburbs. Applications had been made to the Melbourne City Council for permission for the junior interstate team to train at Fawkner Park, only to learn (Ex. Comm 18 April 1966) that no playing areas were available at Fawkner Park or at any part of the playing fields under the jurisdiction of the Melbourne City Council.

Other speakers supported the development of the Marlborough Street ground. They pointed out that they had a lease on the ground for 7 years, with the option of renewal at £1 a year.

The Executive Committee therefore accepted the offer of the loan with appreciation. An offer was made of two pre-fabricated garages, which could be used in the meantime as storage and as temporary dressing accommodation. By accepting these offers the association committed itself to developing the ground. The Executive Committee (18 April 1966) received permission from the Moorabbin Council to erect a pavilion at the Marlborough Street ground, and a sub-committee was appointed to arrange the erection of the garages in the most suitable position, having regard to the future development of the ground.

Before anything irrevocable was done, an approach was made to the Nunawading Council (Ex. Comm 9 May 1966) to be given an allocation for a lacrosse field among their playing areas. We may summarise that the request was unsuccessful: no further reference is made to it in the minutes.

An important development step was taken at the suggestion of Mr Lindsay Rodda, who was appointed Publicity Officer for the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association (Ex. Comm. 18 April 1966). He entered into his duties with constructive enthusiasm. He discussed methods of obtaining better publicity (Ex. Comm. 30 May 1966) in daily newspapers and also in periodicals. He expressed the view that the association should have its own magazine, possibly fortnightly, setting out news and items of interest on lacrosse. It would be produced by the Publicity Officer and the Records Secretary. It would include results and premiership tables.

Other members of the Executive Committee had expressed their views about the association generating its own publicity. Mr W. Gray had brought out a newsletter which had received the approbation of the Executive Committee, but does not appear to have been followed up. Mr Rodda's plan was more ambitious, and he must have presented it eloquently. The Executive Committee directed Mr Rodda to investigate the proposition thoroughly and to report back to the committee.

The subject was again raised at the Executive Committee meeting (20 June 1966). At this meeting the committee declared that it supported the Publicity Officer in his actions for establishing a magazine both financially and otherwise. He was commended for his excellent report. Thus the foundation was laid for what could be a significant factor in the development of lacrosse in Victoria. The annual report for 1966 stated that the first magazine had been produced, and the Executive trusted that all clubs would give full support to future issues.

It was a busy season at the interstate level. A junior team was sent to Perth to compete in a round of matches against Western Australia and South Australia. The Western Australian association would have liked this series to be named a championship, but Victoria had decided that they would not participate in a championship, with the regularity of occurrence that the term implies. They made the point clear so that the visit could not be taken as a precedent. (Ex Comm. 30 May 1966). They were prepared to designate the junior team as an official Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association team, but

would not accept the fixture as a tri-state or championship series. This intransigence had its base in the views of clubs comprising the Victorian association. Many were perturbed at the small number of juniors who proceeded to senior lacrosse. They felt that the input from junior sources did not warrant the glamour and expense of championship status. The money spent on interstate junior games could be used, they felt in more constructive means of promotion. The other associations respected the point of view, and under whatever title respective states chose to use, the meeting went on. In spite of the Victorian hesitancy, the annual report of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association stated: "In the junior championships played in Perth, Victoria was runner-up to South Australia, and by defeating Western Australia became holders of the L. S. Turnball Cup". This seems to indicate a softening of the Victorian attitude.

It is no small task to prepare any team for interstate competition. First of all, nominations must be invited from clubs, who themselves must ascertain from among their members those who are prepared to make the trip, and also be of sufficient standard to warrant state representation. The submissions then must be considered by the selectors, and invitations to attend training sent to successful applicants. Before training sessions can take place, the state coach must be appointed. This involves a further invitation to clubs to submit nominations. Managers, too, must be appointed so that the business affairs connected with sending a team interstate, or preparing for a home match can be carried out. The training schedule must then be drawn up and the grounds for training arranged. The first arrangement was that the Colts team should train at the Marlborough Street ground on Sundays, the seniors and juniors at Fawkner Park. This was a little premature, as the Melbourne City Council refused the association the use of the park. The Executive Committee decided (28 March 1966) that the Junior team should consist of 15 players, a manager and a coach - trainer. The team would travel by train, second class. The fare to Perth would be \$67.17 for adults and \$56.50 for juniors. The association recommended that junior players should be subsidised \$10.00 towards their fares. This left a considerable sum to be paid by the parents of the juniors. Full return fare was provided for the coach and manager. Junior teams were billeted by the home association. Even so, the association must find a considerable sum of money to send the team to Perth.

The results of the competition were that South Australia beat Victoria, 23-19, and thus won the Schulz Cup. Victoria beat Western Australia 23-13, and thus held the Laurie Turnbull Cup. South Australia beat Western Australia, 22-14 and thus won the Wiles Cup.

Whatever the disadvantages of calling a junior contest a championship, there can be no doubt that participation in such a game would lead to a higher degree of skill. Any sportsman knows that to improve his form he must compete with better players. Interstate squads were chosen long before the date of the actual match. Their members must gather for many weeks, and be taught the skills of the game by the best men available. The best talent of the clubs was brought together to compete for the honour of selection. The teams were announced eight weeks before the event, and underwent further intensive training in skills and tactics. While all this skillful and thorough coaching was going on, the boys continued to practise for and participated in the home and away games. Their increased skills must rub off to a certain degree on their colleagues and opponents. There is more to developing interstate teams than the mere aura of winning, pleasing as that may be, but advantages also accrue perhaps even more so, to losers.

The second important interstate fixture was the Colts championship played in Adelaide. The preparations were similar as those for the juniors. Nominations for the Colts squad were called for by 1 March. Before the final squad could be selected, the coach must be appointed, and the clubs were invited to tender nominations by 28 February. (Ex Comm 10 January 1966). Mr F. Hogarth was appointed coach of the juniors (Ex Comm 16 March 1966). The Colts training programme would begin on 28 March. They would gather on Sundays at 2.30p.m at the Marlborough Street ground. The game would not take place until the middle of July, so that participation involved some small degree of commitment. The Executive Committee (28 March 1966) decided the Colts team should consist of 16 players, a manager and a coach-trainer. They would travel to Adelaide by rail, second class. All members of the team should travel together, but individual players were allowed to arrange their own billeting if they wished to do so, provided the manager and coach were given the address

and phone number. Players were to accept the responsibility of being at all training sessions, the match and other functions as directed by the coach.

The results of the championship were that the South Australian team comfortably defeated the other states:

South Australia	d.	Victoria	25-5
South Australia	d.	Western Australia	25-11
Victoria	d.	Western Australia	21-8

South Australia therefore won the the C.E.M Hickey Shield.

The senior championships were played in Melbourne. The same meticulous selection and training schedules applied as did to their younger colleagues. Nominations for the senior training squad from clubs closed on 27 March. On 18 March Mr Charles Gregory, of the Malvern club, was appointed Manager. Mr T. Allington, the coach, reported to the Executive Committee (9 May 1966) that not all candidates were attending the pre-arranged training on Tuesday nights. Perhaps this is not altogether surprising. Many of the best lacrosse players were actively engaged in other sports during the summer season which would not long have ended. There was a long time before July. There may have been some complacency, players feeling that they knew as much as the coach, and did not need to spend long hours perfecting skills which by the fact of their selection, were already superior. But teams are more than individuals. The absence of one or two key men from team training makes the development of understanding and immediate co-operation impossible. Whatever the reason, the situation was soon remedied, for it was stated to the Executive Committee (18 April 66) that the training of the interstate seniors was proceeding well.

Meanwhile, the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association must as the host state make all necessary preparations for the visit by interstate teams. It was arranged that the South Australians should practise on the Caulfield ground. This was not a senior championship year, but the friendly rivalry between South Australia and Victoria for the Symonds Memorial Cup was keen. On the day of their arrival they would be given a reception at the Amateur Sports Club. It was decided that admission to the interstate match should be 4 shillings for adults and 2 shillings for juniors.

An important development on this occasion was that the interstate sub-committee was directed to negotiate with the Women's Amateur Lacrosse Association of Victoria to assist in conducting a cabaret dance on the evening of the interstate match. It was later reported to the Executive Committee (18 April 1966) that a meeting had been held with the ladies association, who were pleased to give their full assistance. This they did graciously and effectively, as is demonstrated by the Executive Committee's making a donation of \$30 in recognition of its valuable assistance and support to the activities of the interstate sub-committee.

The result of the match was a win to Victoria by 18 goals to 15. The home team thus retained the Bob Symons Trophy. In spite of the wet, cold conditions the match proved entertaining and an excellent demonstration of the skills of lacrosse.

Before we leave the Interstate scene, mention must be made of an important development, that of the resurgence of lacrosse in Queensland. For some time enthusiasts had been working towards re-establishing the game in the northern state. At the annual general meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council, held in Melbourne (27 January 1967) Mr Harold P. Evans, the chairman of the Queensland Lacrosse Association joined the meeting. The fact that there was such an office-bearer implies that clubs had been successfully re-formed, for an association cannot consist of a single club. It would seem that at this stage, teams were at the junior level. The moral and practical support tendered by the southern states had borne fruit. As a result of Mr Harold P. Evan's presence as an observer at the annual meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council in 1966, the application with the Australian Lacrosse Council was approved. For the time being, the voting power of the Queensland Lacrosse Association would be limited to junior lacrosse. There would be no affiliation charge. Mr Harold Evans was accepted as the delegate for Queensland, and as the Queensland delegate he was requested to

ask his state to nominate two vice-presidents of the Australian Lacrosse Council. This was an important step in the process of re-establishing lacrosse as a fully Commonwealth of Australia game.

Important as all these things were the season of 1966 was to lay the foundations of even greater things. Negotiations had been under consideration for further international tours for some time. The annual report of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association contained a statement that the Canadian Lacrosse Association had sent an invitation to the Australian Lacrosse Council to send a team to play in Canada in 1967. It was hoped that a 4 nation series, Australia, Canada, England and the United States, could be arranged. It was hoped that the Australian team would play matches on the Pacific seaboard of the United States, at Vancouver, Baltimore, Toronto, England and Hong Kong. If such a concept could be carried out it would be a great step in the development of lacrosse.

Such a project involved complicated preparations. The approval of each association in each country must be won. The basis on which a national team would be chosen having been decided, financial problems would need to be solved. The practical difficulties having been overcome, a decision must be reached as to the code of rules under which the games must be played. It is worth noting that in Australia, 1966 had been the first season during which all states had observed the same rules. The task of formulating a code acceptable to four different national bodies, each with a different code, was formidable, particularly as there was no efficient or effective international body.

There was indeed a body called the International Amateur Lacrosse Association. This seemed to be the sort of authority that was needed to control the game at international levels, but little seemed to be known about it. The Australian Lacrosse Council at its meeting in South Australia in 1966 directed its Hon. Secretary to write to the secretary of the International Amateur Lacrosse Association seeking details of memberships and a copy of its constitution and rules. It was some time before a reply was received.

Nevertheless, the Council, after discussion decided that, subject to an official invitation, to take part in an international championship, and forthwith set in train the tour arrangements.

Mr L. S. Turnbull, of Western Australia, estimated that the cost of each player for a 6 week tour during which 11 matches would be played would be about \$1,200. The team would need to leave at the end of April 1967.

The Australian Lacrosse Council decided that immediately on receipt of the invitation, they would select a team of 18 players and a manager-coach. Each state was invited to submit a list of all senior players who would be prepared to make the trip having regard to the cost of the venture and the time involved. The players must indicate within one month their willingness for selection in the overseas team.

The lists of nominated players were required by 16 August 1966. State delegates would then scrutinise the lists and telephone their selected overseas team by August 21. Differences between the selectors by delegates would be solved by a committee consisting of the Secretary of the Council, the International Liaison Officer and the Victorian delegate. The Council Secretary would then inform the state delegates by telephone as soon as possible the names of the final Australian team selected. It seems all very laborious, but the Australian Lacrosse Council was anxious to avoid arousing the susceptibilities of any state.

It had been considered an unwise economy to combine the positions of coach and manager and that they would go on the same conditions as the players. That is, there would be no assistance in paying fares or accommodation. The manager would be allowed an expense account of \$300, the money to be levied equally from the state associations. Applications for the positions of coach and manager were required by 17 August. This seems very complicated but the Australian Lacrosse Council realised the necessity for tact and respect for association authority.

By the annual general meeting, held in Melbourne on 27 January 1967 matters had reached some finality. The proposed itinerary was accepted. Qantas was chosen as the round-the-world carrier,

the world fare being \$838.10. Two players originally chosen had been forced to withdraw, Messrs Alec Inglis and Ross Griffin. Their places were taken by Messrs. T. Rimmer and R. Taylor of Western Australia. A postal ballot having supported the proposition 5 additional players were selected to bring the playing strength up to 23, Messrs D. Spreadborough (Vic), F. Stewart (Vic), E. Nicholls (Vic, but currently overseas), N. Waite (S.A. but currently overseas) and W. Wilcock (W.A).

Now an immense amount of detailed organisation ensued. The respective spheres of authority were defined, the manager being placed in full control of the party and responsible to the Australian Lacrosse Council. His powers included expulsion from the party if such a step was necessary. The coach had full control of all training and playing programmes and of physical fitness. The selection committee would consist of the coach, the captain and the vice-captain.

It was stressed that the obligations of members of the party did not cease until disembarkation in Australia. Passports, visa's etc were the responsibility of state associations. The Australian Lacrosse Council undertook the responsibility of paying fares to and from Melbourne. It was the responsibility of players to go to Melbourne and home from there at the conclusion of the tour.

International rules indicate that an official touring party should number 25 persons. For each match 17 players must be available.

It was decided that the official walking-out dress should be similar to that of the 1962 team. The association arranged for the production of 200 ties in the Australian colours. These ties might be worn by any member of any association affiliated with the Australian Lacrosse Council. They would cost \$2.50.

The supporters group, which augmented the number travelling and thus provided the economy of bulk-booking, were permitted to wear an identifying badge for that purpose.

Rules under which games might be played were something of a problem. It was decided that the Australian Lacrosse Council's International Liaison Officer should correspond with overseas hosts concerning rules. The Council suggested that he use those submitted to the International Lacrosse Federation. Should total agreement not be reached, the Council conceded that it would abide by local rules.

It was important that problems so far as possible should be foreseen and arranged. The trip would provide a precedent.

This was not the first Australian team to make an overseas visit, but it was the first to attend an international championship. This meant that Australian lacrosse would come under world-wide scrutiny. The Australian Lacrosse Council had the advantage of experience with the previous international tour. This world championship tour indicated that there would be other tours, even possibly on a regular basis.

The A. L. C. International Liaison Officer was directed to seek by donation or loan any items of lacrosse historical interest. These were to be placed in a display with other lacrosse memorabilia. The display was to be shown in the four capitals of the four states affiliated with them.

Though the actual tour took place in 1967, the foundations were well and truly laid in 1966. The preparations occupied a great deal of the attention of the Australian Lacrosse Council.

The Council pressed for an efficient federation of international lacrosse. There was such a body, but it seemed to have little standing or effectiveness. Mr Noel Jeffrey, the International Lacrosse Liaison Officer for the Australian Lacrosse Council was requested to represent Australia at any meetings the International Lacrosse Federation might hold, and report back to the Australian Lacrosse Council. The Hon. Secretary of the Council was directed to write to Mr C. L. Coppard (England) the Secretary of the International Federation indicating that there appeared to be no copy in existence of the original constitution. Australia therefore proposed that the federation of international lacrosse take steps to

formulate a constitution, set of rules and the objects of the federation. The Australian Lacrosse Council offered to formulate the suggested constitution, rules and objects to be a basis for comment. The Australian Lacrosse Council suggested that the secretary of the international federation notify constituent members that a meeting would be held in Toronto in time for the world series so that a constitution might be considered. One item for decision proposed by the Council was that three years notice should be given to the Council of any overseas, international or world series events.

At this time, 1966 there seems little doubt that Australia was the driving force in regularising international lacrosse, and in trying to unify the approach to the game as a truly international sport. We must wait for 1967 and later to see the effect of the Australian Lacrosse Council's endeavours.

Yet the Council also made important decisions for the advancement of lacrosse in Australia. They decided that senior and Colts championships would be held in two yearly cycles, drawing up the following programme:

1968 Seniors	Victoria
1969 Colts	Western Australia
1970 Seniors	South Australia
1971 Colts	Victoria
1972 Seniors	Western Australia
1973 Colts	South Australia
1974 Senior	Victoria (this to coincide with the centenary of lacrosse in Victoria)

The Council redefined the term "Colts", reducing the age from 21 to 19, and removing the restriction on young men who may have been selected in A grade teams.

They also arranged for efficient umpiring. Now that there was a commonwealth-wide code, interstate referees could be used. It was therefore decided that a state participating in a championship must provide a referee to form a panel of referees. Fares and expenses for the two visiting referees would be shared equally between the three major states. Visiting referees would be billeted by the home side.

Though great things were planned in 1966, there is a note of anxiety in the annual report of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association. The Executive Committee had authorised the conducting of a special effort to raise funds for the various ambitious projects being carried out. The Green Ball club undertook the task. The support given to the effort by the clubs had been at best luke-warm. The Executive Committee saw, as would any long-thinking man, that progress such as they envisaged would require money. The annual report for 1966 contained these words:

"Unless all clubs take serious stock of the situation and positive action at once, the future of our game is far from healthy. Five years from now could well see lacrosse reduced to a few groups of enthusiasts playing occasional social matches. It behoves all clubs and lacrosseurs to forget petty club interests, and even the winning of premierships, and devote, here and now, and for the next few years, all their planning, energy and time, to lifting our game to a standard of which it is truly worthy".

The future of the game depends not only on the vision and drive of its executive, but also on the understanding, loyalty and support of every individual club player. This even goes so far as unbuttoning the hip pocket. It was to be hoped that the trend towards improvement in numbers would continue in 1967 and that with the additional numbers would come a generosity towards the provision of money to carry out great projects.

The big event for 1967 was certainly the world tournament held in Toronto in May 1967. At this meeting lacrosse became a world sport. There had been international matches before this, but on this occasion teams and their official representatives were able to gather together, and at least begin to devise rules and conditions which would apply universally. It was fitting that this historic first world championship should be held in 1967, in Canada. On 1 July 1867 the federation of four states gave rise to the Dominion of Canada. This date was an important centenary for all Canadians, and it was right that this time should be observed with the world gathering of the Canadian game.

The Australian team gathered under the authority of the Australian Lacrosse Council. The preparations had been made in 1966. The selected team consisted of:

1.	B. J. Griffin	(W.A)	Capt	Forward
2.	G. J. Hill	(W.A)	Vice Capt	Midfield Defence
3.	P. J. Collett	(S.A)		Forward
4.	A. W. Jennings	(S.A)		Midfield Defence
5.	J. A. Keen	(W.A)		Forward
6.	A. S. Neill	(S.A)		Goalkeeper
7.	B. S. Neill	(S.A)		Midfield
8.	E. A. Nicholls	(Vic)		Midfield Defence
9.	E. J. O'Keefe	(Vic)		Midfield
10.	M. J. Orr	(Vic)		Midfield
11.	L. N. Piper	(W.A)		Midfield Centre
12.	G. J. Reddaway	(Vic)		Midfield Forward
13.	D. C. Riddington	(Vic)		Defence
14.	T. Rimmer	(W.A)		Goalkeeper
15.	A. E. Rolley	(Vic)		Forward
16.	G. F. Rowe	(S.A)		Midfield Defence
17.	D. A. Rudderham	(W.A)		Defence
18.	D. Spreadborough	(Vic)		Midfield - Centre
19.	F. A. Stewart	(Vic)		Forward
20.	R. B. Taylor	(W.A)		Midfield Defence
21.	G. I. Treloar	(Vic)		Midfield
22.	N. G. Waite	(S.A)		Midfield Defence
23.	W. W. Wilcock	(W.A)		Forward
Team Manager: F. Durham (Vic)				
Coach: I. W. Jewitt (W.A)				

This gave state totals of Western Australia 9, South Australia 6, and Victoria 10.

Now, it is one thing to name an Australian team and control it through an Australian organisation, but it is quite a different matter to meld 23 players from 3 states into a single team. Interstate jealousy has been the continual plague of federation. It must have been a difficult task to overcome state and personal differences. The players from the different states had previously met only as adversaries. Now they had to live together in confined circumstances. Even harmless personal mannerisms become irritating. It is said that the best way to lose a friend is to share a long trip with him.

These difficulties are not mere conjecture. The players themselves were aware of them. Among the first suggestions for conducting future International trips emanating from the players themselves were:

1. Players from different states should be mixed together as much as possible in billets, on transport, and in other accommodation.
2. State officials should impress on players that it is important for team spirit to forget state (and club) loyalties when players are members of an Australian team.
3. Team officials should not come from one state.
4. All players should be under one roof.
5. Players should practice together prior to departure.

The Manager's Report points out the same problem. He suggested that the team should assemble in Melbourne at least two days before the time of departure, and arrive at their destination four days before the first match.

That the Australian team developed into so happy and relatively successful combination is a great tribute to the wisdom, tact and patience of the manager and the coach.

It is unlikely that a team chosen to represent an amateur organisation will be the best team available. Not all amateurs enjoy the same degree of independence. The touring team must be away from home for a considerable time. Many younger men cannot take leave -of-absence from their work for

granted. Many others, perhaps at the beginning of, or preparing for, domestic life cannot find the money to pay their fares and expenses. The air-fare alone cost \$853.80 from Melbourne. Only those sufficiently well-to-do and able to be absent from their occupations for the length of time required can offer their names as candidates for selection. The success achieved on the field was therefore creditable.

The party left Sydney at 7p.m on 19 April 1967. They had a heavy programme of matches, and this together with the social demands of American hospitality, exacted a certain toll.

The matches played were:

1. V. Northern California Lacrosse Club
 N.C.L.A All Stars 13
 Australia 11
2. V. British Columbia L.A
 British Columbia L.A 21
 Australia 17
3. V. Denison University
 Denison 12
 Australia 5
4. V. John Hopkins University
 John Hopkins University 16
 Australia 10
5. V. University Club (Baltimore)
 University Club 16
 Australia 6
6. V. Naval Academy
 Naval Academy 17
 Australia 9
7. v. Hofsbra Club, New York
 Washed out by rain
8. V. Long Island Lacrosse Club
 Long Island Lacrosse Club 18
 Australia 4
9. University of Massachusetts
 University of Massachusetts 10
 Australia 12
10. V. Boston Lacrosse Club
 Boston Lacrosse Club 6
 Australia 16
11. 1st World Series Match v. England
 England 9
 Australia 11
12. 2nd World Series Match v. Canada
 Canada 10
 Australia 18
13. 3rd Wold Series Match v. U.S.A
 U.S.A 25
 Australia 11

After the world series B. Griffin was nominated as the best Australian player.

But statistics like this do not reveal the purpose and value of such ambitions and expensive undertakings. The Australian Lacrosse Council, and the individual amateur players who paid hard-earned money to make the trip, did not do so with the intention of showing that they could not beat lacrosse teams of the United States. The results are a by-product.

There are, of course, technical lessons to be learned. New tactics may be applied, and measures to foil them may be devised. New revelations of skill in stickwork may lead to improvements in technique,

but these are of minor importance, and often only slowly assimilated. During the 1962 visit to America, Australian lacrosseurs had learnt the ascion that a good big player will beat a good small player. This ascion was soon to be recognised by club selectors in Australian rules football. It had been suggested in reports of the 1962 tour, but had not been generally accepted in Australia. For instance, an article at the time of the 1967 tour is reproduced in the Western Australian records. Among many true and laudable comments it states: "....It has been called "the fastest game on two feet" - it is a game of skill, not brute force (contary to the general belief) and the little fellow can beat his larger opponent by superior ability -..." The lessons of 1962 had clearly not been universally accepted in Australia by 1967. The principle was re-iterated in the manager's report in the section on selection of teams: "... a majority of the players should be big, fast men, as many American and Canadian sides have an average height of 6 feet and more..."

The wider aspects of giving young Australians the chance to live among people of different nations, to hear their points of view, to exchange opinions, to experience different cultures, to show the world the sort of people Australians are is both a great responsibility and a deep privilege. For an Australian team to be made welcome in four countries, the United States of America, Canada, England and Hong Kong no doubt did much to reinforce the doctrine of "One World" expressed by President J. F. Kennedy: That is why the public behaviour of representative teams is important. The Australians who have experienced the privilege of representing their country come home wiser and more broad-minded men. They form small centres of tolerance and understanding, which spread in their time to form a tolerable influence. There may be occasional departures from what many would deem suitable conducts, but it is better to be known for what we are, warts and all.

For there were individuals who were not fully aware of their high calling. In his report on team behaviour the manager wrote: "Most team members conducted themselves in a manner befitting an Australian international team domiciled in a foreign country but unfortunately a few could not raise their standards above that of an end-of-season club visit. In spite of the manager's and coach's instructions too much alcohol was consumed by these people during travelling and on curfew nights. A letter written from Canada from an A.L.C officer stating that he was ashamed to be an Australian after seeing the state of some rooms at the motel in Toronto after the team's departure, was brought to the notice of the team in Paris at a special meeting. Unfortunately all the rules-abiding, co-operative members of the group suffer because of the immature drinkers."

The coach made similar but more sympathetic comments. "Although reasonable control was maintained," he wrote, "boisterous behaviour was reported.... In this respect I am bound to report that some damage to light fittings and general decor in a room at the Lord Sincoe Hotel in Toronto which was occupied by the Australian team members. No one team member or group could be mentioned in this connection, for many players of various teams were present and the blame for such behaviour accordingly must be widespread..." There was clearly some horse-play and destructiveness of which the majority of players disapproved. One of the suggestions put forward to the A. L. C. concerning the tour and future tours was that "Players should be thoroughly screened before selection concerning behaviour and drinking habits on previous International or Interstate tours"

This lesson might have been learned from the 1962 tour.

Three other aspects of the tour aroused adverse criticism: one was the presence of the "supporters group", the second was the visit to New York and the third the tourist section between London and Rome.

A number of genuine supporters accompanied the team and gave valuable assistance. So as to gain the advantage of bulk-booking, a number of others were included in the support group whose aim was pure tourism. Many of them had never before seen lacrosse played. The size of this support group left American hosts aghast. As the party all subscribed the same fares, the "support group" believed their wishes and point of view should carry the same weight. From the players suggestions we may cypher that there was friction. Point 21 reads: "Supporters must be lacrosse people". Point 22 reads: "Players must be told that supporters are not getting preference over players" Point 23 states that "a supporters manager should be appointed". Point 24 states that the assistance offered

by supporters justifies their existence on tours”.. And point 25 suggests that the supporters manager should confer with the team manager, and should be responsible for collecting fares etc, but not hotel expenses.

It is evident from these comments by players that there was some inconvenience caused by the team's being accompanied by a large group of supporters.

It would appear that the visit to New York was not a happy experience. Point 19 of the players comments states unequivocally: “Avoid New York. It is unhospitable and expensive.”

The Coach's report elaborates on the situation “In New York the players were housed in third-rate conditions at the New York Athletic Centre, and left to their own devices for three days, and during this time most of the players budgets allowed only one or two standard meals. The effect on these players and the team was quite evident in the Long Island game at the end of this period”.

The coach emphasised that the responsibilities of prospective hosts should be clarified. The major points of such responsibilities, he stated should be that the hosts are responsible for full accommodation, meals, transport as required, and suitable training facilities within reasonable reach of players accommodations. Naturally, such conditions would have to be met by Australian hosts when an overseas team visited the Commonwealth.

The sight-seeing section from London to Rome seems to have badly continued. Point 16 of the players comments states: “To reduce cost eliminate the tourist section, Paris to Rome”

The manager in his report gave specific information: “Arrangements made in Australia by Orbit Travel Services”. he wrote “for accommodation in England and across Europe were most unsatisfactory:...At all hotels the team paid 15% more for accommodation than the list price displayed on all brochures and bedroom doors. In Rome the party was stationed on the outskirts of the City, necessitating a change of three buses to reach the city terminal and the shopping centre.” One wonders why such a section was included: possibly at the request of the supporters group. It is easy to sympathise with the players views that such a section could well be deleted.

From the point of view of the good of the game the most important development was the first real attempt to get representatives of the lacrosse playing nations together to consider a single, universal set of rules. There can be no doubt that the initiative for this came from Australia. We have already seen how the Australian Lacrosse Council instigated moves that breathe life into the International Lacrosse Federation. It seemed self-evident that no world lacrosse could be envisaged until there was unanimity over the laws of the game.

We have seen already how widely the American game diverged from the Australian, and what strenuous efforts were made, first in Victoria and the Green Ball club, and gradually by South Australia and Western Australia, to modify the Australian code sufficiently to make it competitive with the rules of the United States. Some comment needs to be made about the rules in force in Canada and in England.

For many years before 1967 professionalism had taken control of Canadian lacrosse. The game played in Canada was mainly the “box lacrosse” originally devised in Melbourne, but now played only as a modified in the annual junior gymkhana. Climate controls the nature of the game men play. The winter climate of Canada is so severe that outdoor lacrosse is very difficult, but a regular competition, such as is needed for a professional game, can be played indoors, thus restricting the playing area, and making a reduction in the number of players inevitable. In spite of efforts to revive it, box lacrosse was not supported by the better players because of the high risk of injury. Games played against Canadian sides suggested that the undesirable characteristics of box lacrosse were only too evident in the Canadian code. The Australian coach commented as follows : “The British Columbia team was comprised only of box lacrosse players, who had not played under rules governing American or Australian lacrosse. The much heavier Canadians took full advantage of heavy checking against our lighter Australians who were carrying injuries and bruises from the San Francisco match, however the

major factor in their large tally of goals was their adept long range goal shots which are a great feature of the indoor lacrosse game, i.e. throwing the ball underarm from 20 yards or more from the goal through the back line. These extremely "fast and screened" goal shots made an extremely difficult task for our goalie, who was playing under lighting, which was, at its best, inadequate for a fast-moving ball game."

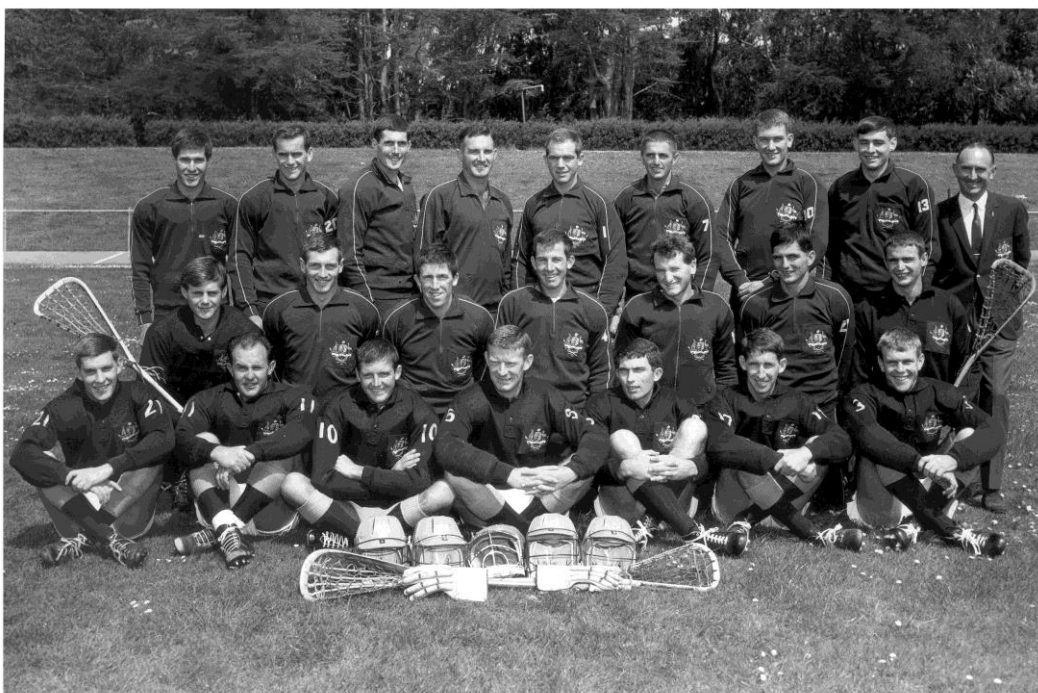
His comments on Canadian lacrosse continue in his remarks concerning the world series ... "I was concerned for the players against the extremely rough Canadian "box lacrosse players", for we were still carrying injuries to players ribs with the Canadians violently crosse checking in the British Columbia game, and our main concern was about severe injuries during the game. Undoubtedly the Canadians adapted poorly to field lacrosse, and when we were in definite command of the game in the third quarter, the Canadians began violently to check, which was extremely alarming. My players were instructed to play wide and the final quarter of this game found our players attempting this attitude with only the slightest assistance from the umpires who would not apply the rulings nearly as strictly as one must expect and gave the Canadians untold tolerance in respect of their "Box" checking.

These comments are quoted, not in any sense of recrimination, but merely to prove that the Canadian interpretation of the game differed widely from that of Australia and of the United States. It would be no easy task to form a code of rules acceptable to all the lacrosse playing countries.

Rules in England appear to have been similar to those generally observed in the Australian states before the 1962 tour of America. English administrators were wary of change. The Australian 1967 touring team made no adverse criticism of rules or refereeing during their big tour of England in 1967.

There is little doubt that the Australian tour of 1967 indicated wide divergences, not only in the codes of rules but also in their interpretation. If the Australian influence could bring about an effective international federation, capable of resolving the differences between the various countries, and thus achieving a unanimous code of laws and conduct, the value of the tour would be incalculable.

Australian Lacrosse Team - 1967 International Tour



Back Row (l to r): T. Rimmer (WA), B. Taylor (WA), G. Hill -Capt (VIC), I. Jewitt - Coach (WA), B. Griffin (WA), B. Neill (SA), J. O'Keefe (VIC), D. Riddington (VIC), F. Durham -Mgr
Centre Row: G. Reddaway (VIC), D. Spreadborough (VIC), G. Rowe (SA), A. Jennings (SA), F. Stewart (VIC), F. Neill (SA), A. Rolley (VIC)
Front Row: G. Treloar (VIC), L. Piper (WA), M. Orr (VIC), J. Kean (WA), B. Willcock (WA), D. Rudderham (WA), P. Collett (SA)
Absent: E. Nicholls

The international tour caused lacrosseurs to look to the wider horizons of the game, but at home the normal programmes of a season went on. After all, only 8 or 10 players were unavailable to their state sides, but there were many other skillful players keen to represent their state.

This was not a championship year, and the main interstate fixtures for 7 Victorians in 1967 were the annual matches against South Australia. Discussions arose as to whether in view of the overseas tour, whether the games should be played. The Executive Committee made enquiries as to which players would be available (3 February 67) and it was decided to play the games as usual. At the next meeting (27 February 1967) a circular was sent to clubs calling for nominations for members of training squads by 15 April, and nominations for the positions of manager, coach and selectors for both senior and junior teams by 14 March. It was decided that the return fare to Adelaide for members of teams, the manager, the coach and the trainer would be paid by the association.

The establishment of an A.L.C junior championship was pursued with some vigour by Western Australia and South Australia, and opposed by Victoria. At the Australian Lacrosse Council's meetings held in Adelaide on the 29 & 30 July 1967 the Western Australian delegate moved that member associations should consider holding bi-annual junior championships. The proposition was to be the subject of a postal ballot. The result of the ballot was that the proposal to hold a junior lacrosse championship was carried 3 to 1. It should be remembered that Queensland had been admitted to the Council, but its delegate could vote for the time being only on matters pertaining to junior lacrosse. However, no starting date was considered.

The Victorian association was still reluctant. The Victorian delegate to the Australian Lacrosse Council was instructed to make it clear that the Victorian association was prepared to participate only when it was financially convenient.

They appeared ready to compromise. The Executive Committee (27 November 1967) proposed to the Australian Lacrosse Council that it rescind its resolution that biennial championships for senior and Colts should take place. And it is evident that a third championship would complicate the biennial arrangements. The Victorian proposition was that all championships should be organised on a triennial basis, seniors one year, Colts the next and juniors the third on a rotational basis. The upper limits for juniors should be 16 years, and for Colts and juniors, billeting should be accepted as a principle.

If junior championships were to be introduced, the Victorian association believed that 1970 would be the earliest practical date. The senior championships was already programmed for 1968, and 1969 as the Colts championship. The Victorian association declined to enter a team for a junior championship in 1968, and they expected the South Australian association, irrespective of championships to honour its obligation to send a junior team to Victoria for the annual junior teams match. The Victorian association was not prepared to undertake staging both a senior and junior championship in the one year. (Ex. Comm. 4 December 1967). The situation was not clarified by the end of the 1967 season.

Another matter of interstate concern was the progress of the game in Queensland. It had been anticipated that senior lacrosse teams would begin competing in 1968. Mr Ellis, the former secretary of the Queensland Lacrosse Association was recognized as the proxy delegate for Queensland to the Australian Lacrosse Council. Appreciation of the work done by Mr Ellis was recorded in the minutes. However, a letter was tabled at the Australian Lacrosse Council meeting from Mr H.P Evans and Mr Val Ellis stating that their plans had suffered a set-back. A number of promising players through career transfers, had become unavailable, and organized senior lacrosse would not take place.

Most of the energy of the Executive Committee was taken up with the routine administration of the day-to-day affairs of the association. Without a strong body of ordinary players any consideration of interstate or international affairs was just so much talk. The first responsibility of the Executive Committee of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association was to conduct a successful home and away season. Interstate games do not pay the bills: they are largely the reason for incurring them.

And, of course, one season is much like another. The same arrangements have to be made and carried out year by year and week to week. It is only too easy to be complacent and take for granted the strains office lays upon individuals. In the matter, the Victorian association was in a vulnerable position. There was no secretary. Mr Ponton had resigned from the office and no other member of the association came forward to take his place. It really is astonishing that the association could conduct its affairs effectively in the circumstances.

The Executive Committee (18 January 1967) drew up the outline of activities. The season would start on 15 April. The last home and away game would be played on 29 July. The grand final of the open age groups would close the season on 9 September. The junior gymkhana would take place on 12 June. All this is easy to write down on paper, but an immense amount of detailed organisation must be arranged before it can be carried out. Somehow the secretaryless association managed it, and did so very well.

The number of players had to be regulated. The Executive Committee decided that in all grades there should be 10 players on the field, and up to 5 substitutes on the bench. These seem minor matters, but until the decisions were made the clubs could not calculate the number of teams that would enter, and no fixtures could be drawn up. Then there was the perennial problem of finding suitable referees. Mr Kinderman had been appointed as referee's liaison officer, and his first report for the season was presented to the Executive Committee (18 January 1967). Eventually all was ready to go, with 11 teams in the A grade, 10 in the B and 10 in the C. Mr R. Holden undertook drawing up the Under 12 and Under 14 fixtures.

There were ancillary activities and responsibilities. At the Executive Committee (3 February 1967) a sub-committee was formed to conduct social activities. It was to consist of 6 members, with power to co-opt. Among its personnel were the state managers and coaches, 2 members of the Victorian Women's Amateur Lacrosse Association, and 2 executive members. It decided that a cabaret ball should be held, and conducted by a sub-committee to be appointed from the general committee. The Greenball Club became involved in the social programme, and reported (7 April 1967) that the St. Kilda Town Hall had been booked for the cabaret ball on a Thursday, the precise date not yet having been fixed. The function must have been a success, and at the Executive Committee meeting (4 December 1967) a verbal report was received from the Greenball Club, which was then asked to make arrangements for a similar function in 1968, and authorised the treasurer to advance the booking fee. The ladies association had been offered 25 cents for every ticket they sold up to 200; any number over 200 would earn 50 cents. It is pleasing to read of this increased social activity, and especially so to read of the co-operation between the men's and ladies associations.

The all important event from the point of view of publicity was the production of the association's publication "Lacrosse News". The Publicity Officer Mr Rodda, reported to the Executive Committee (15 March 1967) that he had arranged to have printed 800 copies of the first edition of "Lacrosse News". He could not precisely report the cost to clubs until the cost of printing was finalized. At the Executive Committee (19 April 1967) he reported that the regular issue of "Lacrosse News" would be available for distribution on Friday 5 May.

There were other indications of more active pursuit of publicity. The publicity officer had made good contacts with the press. He anticipated better cover in the "Sporting Globe". There was, he said, a pressing need for a competent Press Officer for "The Age".

He also spoke of the proposed year book to be published by the Australian Lacrosse Council. This was to consist of 24 glossy pages. It would include photographs and statistical records of each state association, and general information on lacrosse in each state. There would be photographs of interstate and international sides. It would sell at \$1.50 per copy. Clubs were asked to advise the association how many copies they could sell at \$1.50 and how many at \$0.75. At last it seemed likely that the Victorian association and the Australian Lacrosse Council had become aware of the need to generate its own publicity.

The development of the Marlborough Street ground continued, though perhaps not as rapidly as the association might have hoped. At the Executive Committee meeting (3 February 1967) an application was received from the Caulfield club for the use of the ground on 6 Saturdays, 11 February to 18 March, at \$1.00 per day. A club called the Moomba Club offered to pay \$5.00 per annum per team for the hire of equipment. The Executive Committee invited members of the association to attend a working bee at the Marlborough Street reserve to paint the dressing sheds (7 April 1967). It is therefore evident that some sort of accommodation must have been erected.

The Executive Committee received some discouragement. After striving to have lacrosse included in the curriculum of the Physical Education School of the Melbourne University, it was mortified to learn that lacrosse was now to be discontinued. This must have been disappointing, even unjust, in view of the money and energy the association had devoted to developing the game in government schools. The pretence for discontinuing its conduct of lacrosse in the university was said to be a shortage of funds. This seems a little thin, for the association had put no small amount of money into the project, and had provided amateur instructions. Perhaps the Physical Education School was merely embarking on a fishing trip, perhaps athletic politics and personalities were exerting an influence. The Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association could regard it as a retrograde step.

No one lives forever, and during the 1967 season the lacrosse association lost two of the oldest and most faithful members of its executive. At the annual meeting the report announced the deaths of Mr Howard Balmer and Mr George Smith. Mr Howard Balmer was the senior life member. He had an unbroken term as vice-president since 1952. It was recorded that he was the finest and most able secretary the association had had. Mr George Smith was senior vice-president. He also had had an unbroken term since 1952. For many years he had been a capable and wise administrator.

Thus the momentous season of 1967 drew to a close.

The many activities and wide responsibilities undertaken by lacrosse administrators in 1967 might have tempted many to pause for a little, to consolidate what had been done, and to indulge in a certain euphonic review about things past. In fact, the Executive Committee of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association continued their work with unabated energy.

These preliminary arrangements must be temporary. No firm list of fixtures could be made until the clubs made firm commitments as to the number of teams they could enter. This in itself was controlled to some extent by the number of players to constitute a team. The Executive Committee therefore decided that a team should consist of 10 field players, and up to 5 substitutes. Team entries were required by 20 March, and the final fixtures by published on 1 April.

It was proposed in Victoria that the "Match of the week" should be played at a central location on Sunday afternoons. There were still many amateur sportsmen who preferred not to let their sporting activities encroach upon those activities they regarded as proper to Sunday. The decision in favour of playing this "match of the week" on Sunday was passed by the narrow majority of 15-13. However, it found that instituting this development must be deferred until October because of the difficulty of obtaining a suitable ground.

There were new developments introduced in 1968, among them was box lacrosse. The game had been previously introduced in Melbourne, and after a successful introduction discontinued. One of the reasons for this was the reluctance of senior players to run the risk of injury in what they considered unimportant games in comparison with pennant matches. This form of the game had taken over professional lacrosse in Canada, and, no doubt, players returning from overseas tours could see the six aside game in Victoria. Of course, six a side had always been an important component of the under age tournament, or gymkhana as it is often referred to.

The Executive Committee took the matter seriously. They appointed a sub-committee to enquire into box lacrosse, consisting of Mr L. K. Rodda, convenor, Mr E. Toomey and Mr L. Whiting with power to co-opt. As we all know, sub-committees are often a means of avoiding issues, but in this case, it contained men of influence who were unlikely to be easily put off. The probability is that the Executive Committee recognised a source of potential revenue, which was becoming necessary as the number of international fixtures and national championships increased.

The fact-finding committee presented the case for box lacrosse at the Executive Committee meeting. It received an encouraging hearing. The sub-committee was asked to proceed with finding suitable venues, and possible dates. There was evidently active support for the proposition. The Executive Committee (15 May 1968) received an offer from that influential group, the Greenball Club, to give an exhibition of the game at the half time interval of matches.

The box lacrosse sub-committee presented a report to the Executive Committee (17 July 1968). The committee agreed in principle with its propositions. The convenor of the box lacrosse sub-committee was invited to be present at the next Executive Committee meeting, which was to be called primarily to deal with the matter. At this meeting (6 September 1968) the association committed itself firmly to support box lacrosse. The association committed itself to underwrite the sum of \$500 towards the cost of the box lacrosse venture at the Marlborough Street ground in Bentleigh. A registration fee of \$3.00 was to be levied upon each player. A new bank account was set up for the box lacrosse division, with an initial contribution of \$40 from general funds for initial operating expenses. A nominal rental of 25cents was to be charged for the use of the ground. A draft registration form presented by the sub-committee was approved. It was suggested that car cases might be used to form the "Box". The sub-committee was given responsibility for all matters concerning box lacrosse, the duration of the season, collection of fees, funds and dues, naming and selection of teams, programmes of matches, times of matches etc. The sub-committee was given authority to co-opt such members as it thought desirable. From the evidence available it is not easy to determine exactly what was going on. There may well have been a power play within the committee. Although the sub-committee was provided with initial finance, the complete aggregation of responsibility for the conduct of the games makes one suspect that there was a group of officials more than a little sceptical about it, and that office-bearers of the V.A.L.A were not prepared to be involved. The subsequent development of the game under the auspices of the box lacrosse sub-committee will no doubt clarify the situation.

The proposals concerning box lacrosse leads us into a further area of development. The Marlborough Street ground had begun with hopes that at last lacrosse may find suitable headquarters, but the first enthusiasm seems to have cooled, and by 1968 it would seem that very much less of a practical nature had been accomplished than had at first been hoped. The much maligned Yarra River has always provided a demographic barrier. Melbourne in all sorts of contexts is divided into north of the Yarra and south of the Yarra. And the Marlborough Street ground was very much in the south of the Yarra sphere of influence. Moorabbin was still a developing area, in the process of changing from a rural, market - gardening area into an industrial area, and a rapidly expanding dormitory area. Powerful clubs north of the Yarra such as Williamstown or Coburg would not be enamoured of the idea of the lacrosse headquarters lying so far into enemy territory. Marlborough Street was even inconveniently far from the more influential clubs south of the Yarra, such as Malvern and Caulfield. These disadvantages were evident from the beginning, but, in spite of grumblings and mutterings, no better site had been found.

It would seem that little building development had been undertaken. The Executive Committee (30 September 1968) voted a sum of \$65 for repairs to the sheds at the Marlborough Street ground. This suggests that very little had been devoted to the development of the site, which had been donated in the first place, and little interest had been taken in their maintenance. The conditions under which the lease was held must have been far from fulfilled. Such primitive accommodation would have been unsatisfactory for the conduct of a competition of box lacrosse. It seems evident that a situation was approaching where either the Marlborough Street project must be abandoned, or the association must find the money to proceed with the erection of a pavilion with adequate changing facilities and toilets. The Executive Committee (20 November 1968) recommended to the

incoming committee that steps should be taken to raise \$500 for the erection of shower and toilet facilities of the Marlborough Street. Clearly, the future of the project was uncertain at the end of the 1968 season.

There was a lively difference of opinion between the Western Australian and South Australian associations on the one hand and the Victorian association of the other as to the value of junior championships. The fledgling Queensland association, having only junior players at the time to consider, supported the South Australian and Western Australian associations. After much discussion and some intransigence, the Australian Lacrosse Council passed a resolution to the effect that Australian Lacrosse Council championships should be conducted on a two year cycle, and that junior championships, now an accepted feature, should be played in the same year as the senior championships. The upper age limit for juniors should be Under 16 on 1 March of the championship year. Now, it is one thing to decree that championships be held, but the Australian Lacrosse Council could not force member states to enter teams. This, the Victorian association stated that it would not do.

From this, the uninformed may deduce that the Victorian association was little interested in propagating the game among juniors. This was not the case. The Victorian association was concerned about the increasing expense of sending teams to compete at such frequently recurring intervals. The Executive Committee (21 March 1968) requested that an estimate should be made of the cost involved in financing the programme of interstate matches from 1968-1974 inclusive. It also held the view that there was an unsatisfactory loss of players to lacrosse from representatives of teams in junior championships.

Much was to be decided in 1968, both as concerned interstate lacrosse and world lacrosse. These matters were, correctly speaking responsibility of the Australian Lacrosse Council, but, especially the Australian lacrosse championships very much concerned the state associations, especially the host association, as Victoria was in 1968. This meant that the Victorian executive must not only make all the intricate arrangements for conducting the championships generally, but also prepare two home teams, with their officials and officers.

The Australian Lacrosse Council set down as the dates for the senior championship July 6, 10 and 13.

The carrying out of the various activities of interstate visits was delegated to the Interstate visits committee, of which Mr. F. D. Hogarth was appointed chairman. Among the sub-committee's early duties was the organising of a suitable reception for the interstate teams. It was proposed at the executive meeting (20 March 1968) that the Lord Mayor of Melbourne be requested to grant a Civic Reception for the interstate teams. There was a time when such a request would unfailingly be granted, but times change, and not always for the better. As the situation now was a great many sporting bodies now conducted interstate programmes - cricket, golf, tennis, rowing, rifle shooting, athletics, squash, baseball, and many others. The Lord Mayor might start a precedent that would soon lay bare the Mayoral cupboard.

There was some optimism: it was moved and seconded that should the Lord Mayor accede to the request, the proposed reception at the Amateur Sports Club should be cancelled. It was also proposed that the Lord Mayor be invited to attend the whole championship. The delegates were no doubt little surprised to hear at the Executive Committee meeting (17 April 1968) that there would be no reception by the Lord Mayor to the interstate lacrosse teams, and that a reception would be given at the Amateur Sports Club. The interstate sub-committee had not been idle, they stated that a dinner-dance had been organised at "Sergio's" in St. Kilda to commence 7.30-7.45pm at a charge of \$4.00 per head. They also proposed an alteration to the type of guernsey to be used by Victorian teams, a cotton type being substituted for the current woollen type.

At the Executive Committee meeting (15 May 1968) the Interstate sub-committee presented a programme for the championships, which was duly ratified. Unfortunately the minutes did not preserve details. Seasons tickets for the championships were to be sold for \$1.80 (seniors) and 40cents (juniors). For publicity, car transfer stickers would be made available to all clubs. Messrs D. Reyment, G. Hillier, N. O'Brien and L. Morgan were elected to a panel of referees for the championship series, and that Mr. R. Anderson from South Australia and Mr. L. Gaunt from Western Australia would be interstate referees officiating at the championships.

Some doubts were raised concerning the status of the second team at championships. As the invitation for the home state to provide a second team so as to avoid byes came from the Australian Lacrosse Council, the status of second teams lay within the authority of that body. The Victorian Executive Committee took the initiative by deciding that the Victorian lacrosse tie should be given to all the members of the two teams.

The arrangements met with the approval of the Executive Committee, for at their meeting (17 July 1968) congratulations were extended to Messrs F. Hogarth and A. Chiron and all members of the interstate visits committee.

The senior championships were the most evenly matched games of any yet played. The weather was fine throughout, the Albert Ground was in excellent order, though the dressing room facilities were a little cramped for so many players. The results of the matches were:

South Australia	19	v	Victoria	19
South Australia	20	v	Western Australia	16
Victoria	19	v	Western Australia	9

Thus Victoria won the championship on percentage. However, South Australia could take some satisfaction in that having played a draw, they still retained the Bob Symonds Memorial Cup.

The junior championships were even more satisfactory to the Victorian association.

Victoria No1	33	v	South Australia	15
Victoria No2		d	Western Australia	
Victoria No1	33	v	Victoria No2	7
Victoria No1	24	v	Western Australia	8

The biennial championships in themselves provided a challenging programme, but the Australian Lacrosse Council, and by implication its member associations, were imaginative and active in promoting international contests. The influence of the Australian Lacrosse Council seems out of proportion with the numerical strength of the Council and its counterparts in other countries. The whole population of Australia was about equal to that of one of the major cities in the world, say London or New York; and lacrosse was played actively in only three of the states of the Commonwealth. Perhaps the isolation made Australians more aware of the need for contact with the rest of the world. The Australian Lacrosse Council, through its international liaison officer, Mr. N. Jeffrey, communicated with the leading figures in the lacrosse playing countries. Such a man was Mr. Franklin A. Lindeberg, Chairman of the Baseball-Lacrosse Committee of the People to People Sports Committee Inc. Mr. Jeffrey gave information regarding the background of lacrosse in Australia, the current rules, answering various questions, and advising the date of the annual meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council in 1969.

Already the Australian Lacrosse Council had plans for visits to Australia by international teams. One of the main issues raised by Mr. Jeffrey's letter was the conditions under which the Council would consider visits to Australia by visiting teams. Australia, having not long since sent out two international teams, was in a particularly favourable position to advise on the matter. Mr. Jeffrey, with the approval of the Council, outlined six points which the Australian Lacrosse Council presented for consideration:

- (1) It was the responsibility of visiting teams to arrange transport from the home country to the Australian capital city in which the first match of an organised programme should take place.
- (2) Tours should last about three weeks in Australia. No more than 7 days should be spent in each capital city.
- (3) The Australian Lacrosse Council would provide essential transport within that city.
- (4) The Australian Lacrosse Council would not provide or pay for transport between capital cities.
- (5) The Australian Lacrosse Council would provide food, lodging (billeting if possible), and some entertainment for all members of the official party.
- (6) The Australian Lacrosse Council would not give a guarantee of any money return from gate receipts.

The Australian Lacrosse Council recommended that visiting teams should travel by "Round the World" economy air fare. The Australian Lacrosse Council would expect similar conditions to apply to Australian Lacrosse Councils visits overseas. The Council already had a tentative programme of overseas visits:

- 1970 The Lancers Club, Boston to visit Australia.
- 1971 An overseas visit by an Australian team, and/or a visit to Australia by the Lilleshall club (University of Birmingham).
- 1972 International lacrosse clubs - the Ashton Under-Lyne Lacrosse Club, Lancashire possibly to make a private visit as the club is not affiliated with the English Lacrosse Union.
- 1973 No visits.
- 1974 A World Series to be conducted in Australia.

Concerning the visit of the Lancers Lacrosse Club in 1970, Mr. Jeffrey had corresponded with Judge Hammermann. He had approved of an increase in the size of the party to visit Australia. The club would spend 3 weeks in Australia, 7 days in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. The Lancers accepted Mr. Jeffrey's outlined conditions. He anticipated that the team would arrive in Australia on approximately 25 or 30 June the next year. The South Australian delegate pointed out that the A. L. C. championship would be held in Adelaide in 1970. He suggested that the visit of the Lancers to South Australia should coincide with the championship.

The Public Relations Officer, Mr. Rodda outlined the action he proposed to take concerning the overseas visits. He indicated that all planning and publicity should be directed towards the goal of staging a world series championship in Australia in 1974, to mark the centenary of lacrosse in Australia. He hoped for teams from England, Canada, the United States of America and possibly from the West Coast Association of Canada.

Mr. Jeffreys undertook to acquaint all overseas bodies of the programme and inviting participation. He would point out that the early notice would help all bodies to make preparations to take part in the proposed world series.

These were grand plans, but they would be expensive. Member associations should now undertake a series of money-raising projects that would enable the Australian Lacrosse Council to bring to reality its high projects.

This might not be easy. On current form, South Australia and Western Australia had subscribed reluctantly to the cost of international visits. This is not a criticism. Such costs were high, and the membership of state associations modest in quality. The association was being no more than realistic; they did have money to spare, and such funds as they could raise, they felt would be better spent on developing the game at home. The attitude of member clubs of the Victorian Amateur

Lacrosse Association was similar. The last two Special Efforts organised to raise funds had in Victoria been coolly received. The ambitious programme of Australian Lacrosse Council biennial championships at 3 levels; senior, colts and junior, would strain state association finances almost to breaking point.

Succeeding generations should be thankful that the administration of lacrosse at this time was administered by men of vision and faith. At a special meeting of the Victorian Executive Committee (1-11-68) it was announced that it was their intention to initiate a Special Effort, subject to support from member clubs, such support to be indicated in writing.

As an example of the support given to the Association, the Executive Committee decided to recommend that Mr. Henry Volk should be accorded the privilege and title of Life Member of the association. Mr. G. F. Tillotson and Mr. F. F. Durham were to be recommended for the Certificate of Merit of the Australian Lacrosse Council.

Mention should be made of the publication of "Lacrosse News". It was still in publication, and its continued appearance gave the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association a means of keeping the members of clubs informed about what the association was planning, and aware of the steps by which it was proposed to bring the plans to reality.

One aspect of lacrosse, possibly unique, was the happy relationships that existed at interstate levels. The Australian championship was, of course, the great event which called for interstate co-operation. Several clubs in Victoria had made their own special contacts with clubs in other states. The Coburg club (Vic) was granted permission to visit Woodville (SA), Melbourne Cricket Club lacrosse section would entertain North Adelaide; Williamstown would entertain Brighton (SA); Caulfield was to entertain Sturt (SA), Malvern would entertain East Torrens; and Surrey Park would visit Glenelg (SA).

The Victorian Association gave support to the work being done to revive the game in Queensland. The situation there looked gloomy in 1968. Many of the recruits from whom much had been expected had been dispersed through circumstances of employment. Nevertheless, the club currently premiers in Victoria offered to arrange a trip to Brisbane, if those responsible for reviving the game in Queensland would approve of such a venture.

Refereeing is in all games a difficult element, yet without efficient and consistent refereeing no game can be satisfactorily staged. The Australian Lacrosse Council was very much aware of this. It therefore offered to conduct examinations among the officials of clubs aimed at improving the standard of coaching and refereeing. It was greatly aided in this by the production of a film strip made under its supervision and financed by Rothman's Foundation. It proposed to conduct a clinic in Victoria to ascertain the best way in which this valuable adjunct to training could be used.

At the same time a move encouraged by the Australian Lacrosse Council to establish an Australian Referees Association. They enquired of the state association whether, if such an association was formed, they would approve of the Australian Referees Association becoming a constitutional body of the Australian Lacrosse Council. The Victorian association expressed itself in favour of such a broadening of the administrative base.

Thus, the season of 1968, rather than being one of relaxation and reflection proved to be an extraordinarily busy one, in which decisions that might have far reaching results were made. It was a season, moreover, during which Australia came to be recognised as a major influence in world lacrosse.

In 1969 there were far-seeing and important events under consideration at the level of the Australian Lacrosse Council, but at club level in Victoria there seems to have been a certain malaise. The support given to the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association by its member clubs seems to have been at best tepid. It is clear that the ambitious plans of the Australian Lacrosse Council were

making lacrosse in Victoria an increasingly expensive sport. For example, the Special Events Fund cost clubs with teams in A Grade \$40 per team, B Grade \$20, and C Grade \$14.

In addition to this a Development Fund Levy of \$15 for A Grade, \$10 for B Grade, and \$8 for C Grade was applied. Thus, members' subscriptions to their clubs must provide funds at A grade level to the extent of \$55 before any money became available for the club itself. This may have been no great obstacle to clubs with a large membership, such as Williamstown, Malvern, or Caulfield; but it was a different situation for smaller clubs who had difficulty in fielding any teams at all.

This may not have been as serious as it appears, but the evidence is strong that in 1969 Victorian association plans and directives found inadequate support from member clubs. This was demonstrated by the lack of enthusiasm in clubs to nominate suitable persons for administrative responsibility. One of the most effective recruitment areas had been the association of Victorian technical schools. This was due almost entirely to the energy and influence of Mr. Taylor. He received a promotion which made it impossible to express his interest in individual schools. The Executive Committee expressed its disappointment (18 December 1968) that no candidate was put forward to take up the work Mr. Taylor had begun. The appointment of a High Schools Liaison Officer was deferred. The most onerous of all duties was to ensure that the game was played in the sort of spirit required of an amateur activity; but a few clubs saw fit to submit nominations for the tribunal.

That the attitude towards the administrative duties of the association was far from dynamic is demonstrated in the attendance records for the Executive Committee. On some occasions the necessary quorum of 5 was barely reached. On others about half the members attended. The annual report summed it up, stating that meetings of the General Committee were unsatisfactory; the same clubs regularly failing to send representatives. It was even blunter concerning the Executive Committee. The attendance at Executive Committee meetings was "disgraceful"; most meetings being conducted with only the minimum quorum (5). Things must have sunk pretty low for such a statement to be accepted as part of the official annual report. Evidently something was wrong with the leadership of the association. Unless a remedy was soon found, the future in Victoria was gloomy.

The apparently dangerous state of the administration may have been a passing phase brought about partly at least by the needs of the Australian Lacrosse Council (ALC). Dynamic men such as Mr. N. Jeffrey were now heavily occupied with the affairs of the Council. Mr. Jeffrey had been appointed International Liaison Officer for the ALC. This meant that he must keep in touch with associations and officials in different parts of the world. He must instigate invitations to teams from other nations to visit Australia, and he must solicit invitations for teams from Australia to visit other parts of the world. Not least among his duties was to compose a document which would set out clearly the responsibilities of host nations, and also the areas in which visiting teams must assume responsibility for their own affairs. These preoccupations did not leave him much room in which to provide the inspiration to the Victorian association as he had in the past.

The ALC proposed an ambitious international program. A visit from the Lancers club was expected in 1970, and the International Liaison Officer had to make all the necessary arrangements. In addition he had to steer an application from the ALC through the proper channels to the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse for permission to stage a world series in Australia in 1974 to celebrate the centenary of lacrosse in Australia. As International Liaison Officer, he extended an invitation to the Denison University, Grantville, Ohio, USA to visit Australia in 1971. He also opened negotiations with the People to People Committee of North California, USA, indicating that the ALC would be happy to receive a visit from a team in their area, in 1971, to coincide possibly with the visit from Denison University. These visits would involve considerable expense, and Mr. Jeffrey was confident that the state associations would endorse and support these efforts to give world-wide prominence to lacrosse, and to bring lacrosse effectively to the notice of Australian people.

In this he had the support of the executive of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association (VALA). The executive therefore decided to organise a Special Effort, the proceeds of which would allow the association to meet the financial commitments towards an ambitious international program. They authorised the opening of an account for the Special Efforts committee, recommending that a convenient post office box be hired to cope with the incoming mail. The Honorary Treasurer was instructed to advance \$100 to the special account for initial expenses. The actual conduct of the Special Effort was left in the hands of the Special Effort committee. The Special Effort seems not to have met with the whole hearted support of the Honorary Treasurer, and he put forward proposals for the disbursement of the profits.

It was apparent by 2nd July 1969 that the Special Effort was not being supported by clubs enthusiastically as had been hoped. The Executive Committee ratified the decision that the subscription be reduced from \$10 to \$5. Obviously special effort tickets were not being taken up by the clubs. The Special Effort raised the sum of \$369. On the available evidence, it is impossible to explain the immense gap between expectations of the executive and the response from the clubs. Possibly the fact that teams were already heavily levied by a special events fund levy and a development fund levy deterred club members from making further contributions through the Special Effort, but there can hardly be more conclusive evidence of a lack of singleness of purpose between the executive and the clubs.

Nor was this the whole story. It appears that there was a strong feeling that the Executive Committee as it was constituted, was not able to carry out its functions, whatever they were, adequately. At the Executive Committee (15 January 1969) a motion was passed by which the Executive Committee would be appointed for two or three years, a proportion of members retiring each year. Great projects need more than a single year to come to pass, and such an organisation would give stability and more time for the committee and welfare of the association.

Such an arrangement would be familiar to anyone with business experience. It was the format for boards of directors and for local government. Unfortunately, attendance at meetings was so unsatisfactory that it was deemed unwise for the present to force the issue. One does not try to force an issue until the desired end has been ascertained.

It was felt that the role of the Executive Committee required clarification. The minutes do not reveal exactly what the protagonists intended. However, it was felt that there was ample time to prepare a statement for the General Committee; and that, the attendance at this meeting being small, the matter could be deferred. And deferred it was again, and for the same reason on 10 April, 2 July, 23 July, resurfacing on the 15 October when it was decided that a letter from the Williamstown club be circulated to clubs, who would be advised of a general meeting on 19 November. Though the result of the proposals, apparently originating with the Williamstown club was indecisive, the inference is inescapable that certain influential elements in the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association were far from happy with the performance of the Executive Committee. A distinguishing feature of the 1969 season was the decline in the ethics of the game and the behaviour of the players. The establishment of new clubs, and perhaps a modification of areas of recruitment may have had some bearing, as might the general tone of sports behaviour in the community. The universities were now a relatively unimportant section of the lacrosse community, whereas technical schools and high schools provided most of the recruits. On 15 January 1969, the Executive Committee required that the General Secretary express to all clubs the concern of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association at the increase in foul language among players. Apparently this attitude intruded even into interstate play. At the Executive Committee (15 October 1969) the V.A.L.A. requested from all clubs that had visited South Australia on the weekend of 21 June 1969 any information on any incidents which have affected the reputation of the club, or the association, or the sport of lacrosse in general. This followed accusations in part of the South Australian "Crosse News", and the V.A.L.A. took the allegations seriously. Reports from Messrs Gregory and Hogarth were received, and the association decided that no further action was required. In spite of this decision, it is evident that the V.A.L.A. viewed with some apprehension the standard of behaviour to be seen among lacrosse players in Victoria.

The re-establishment of box lacrosse had been hailed with much enthusiasm, but it did not receive the support its promoters anticipated. The annual report spoke of it as disappointing. One advantage hoped for it was that it would keep the game in summers. The report stated that there was a keen group working to get box lacrosse under way.

One of the urgent necessities for the success of box lacrosse, and for the welfare of the headquarters of lacrosse was the provision of satisfactory amenities at the Marlborough Street reserve. This was a matter between the association and the Moorabbin City Council. A sub-committee was established to approach the council to ascertain the possibilities of having toilet and shower facilities supplied at the reserve. If so, they were to enquire whether a donation from the lacrosse association to the maximum of \$500 would enhance the prospects of the project. Some sort of informal discussion must have preceded this move. The Honorary Treasurer was doubtful if the association's finances would support this expenditure when it would be required.

The sub-committee then suggested that the money should be raised by interest-free debentures, repayable by the end of the year from the proceeds of the 1969 Special Effort. As we have seen, the Special Effort was a failure. The minutes available for 1969 do not reveal the outcome of the matter. Some progress may have been made, for it is evident that box lacrosse was to continue. At the Executive Committee (15 October 1969) a letter was sent to the Secretary of the box lacrosse committee suggesting that he may organise a working bee to get the Marlborough Street lacrosse box painted. It seems equally evident that progress in developing the Marlborough Street reserve was far from rapid.

The situation at the domestic level is difficult to assess. There was commendable work done, but there are also signs of a lack of leadership and a lack of progressive thought. In view of the heavy commitments to the international visit, to the interstate championships and to the affairs of the Australian Lacrosse Council in general, this negative approach on the part of its strongest constituent could have a damaging effect.

The senior match between South Australia and Victoria resulted in a win for South Australia by 14 goals to 11. This is by no means an overwhelming loss, but the reports of the coach and manager indicated that the Australian Lacrosse Council might need to examine its control over the game before it could consider itself competent to conduct a world championship. The report of the coach commented adversely on the standard of refereeing by the South Australian referee. It stated "I would be doing the team an injustice if I did not make some comment on the refereeing of Mr. Anderson of South Australia. During the game his apologies for basic mistakes did not compensate for the influence of his decisions had over the result of the game.....Slow whistle technique does not exist in South Australia. When one sees what goes on in South Australia regarding the rules we can be proud of referees in Victoria."

It is not unusual for beaten teams to lay blame on the referee for their loss. The Victorian coach did not do this. He stated that the reasons for the loss were an injury to a key player, D. Miller, and the relative ineffectiveness of new players selected in mid-field positions.

The disturbing fact lies in the discrepancy in the interpretation of the rules in different states. The Australian Lacrosse Council had authorised the "slow whistle technique", and the South Australian Association's disregard for the authority of the Council could lead to chaos, and the situation where visiting international teams would play under a different set of rules in each state. Mr. Hogarth's criticisms, if they were justified, called for attention. The manager of the junior team - and his team had a resounding victory over South Australia by 32 goals to 11 - made similar comments about the interpretation of the rules of lacrosse in South Australia. "This aspect of the game (refereeing) was a little disappointing as the interpretation of penalties in particular varied considerably from what we are accustomed to in Victoria. The slow whistle rule was conspicuous by its absence, in fact the referees did not even carry the required red flag."

Not only in South Australia, but also in Western Australia, Victorian players found variations from those laid down by the Australian Lacrosse Council.

The differences between the Victorian and the Western Australian interpretation of the Australian Lacrosse Council's rules of lacrosse were in the area of cross checking. The report of the coach of the Colt's team states that "stick checks to the body are still common place, and though I had warned the lads of what to expect, never-the-less they were surprised, but to their credit they took the thumps and played the ball at all times." This was no grizzle from a losing coach, for Victoria won the match by 30-13.

The Australian Lacrosse Council was aware of the situation, as, no doubt, were member states. The Western Australian association presented a proposal to clarify the rules. They were discussed at a special Executive Committee meeting (3 March 1969).

One proposal was that penalties should be served only in playing time, and not in time allowed for incidental stoppages in play that might temporarily interrupt playing time.

With regard to body checking, the Western Australian association pronounced this action legitimate "providing both hands are on the crosse, and the checker shall not use a raised foot, knee or elbow."

"Up checking, i.e. checking with the crosse in an upward direction was a potentially dangerous practice. The Western Australian association proposed it should be permitted only when the crosse of a player in possession or about to take possession of the ball is extended horizontally or obliquely, and may be made only with a tapping motion."

The Western Australian proposal sanctioned checking with the crosse in certain circumstances. "In no circumstances shall a player swing his crosse at an opponent's crosse with deliberate viciousness or reckless abandon; and a foul is committed by doing so whether or not an opponents' body is struck. Nor shall a player strike an opponent in an attempt to dislodge the ball from his crosse. However, a check shall not be deemed illegal if, in an attempt to protect his crosse the offensive player uses some part of his body other than his head to ward off the thrust of the defensive players' crosse, and as a result the defensive players' crosse strikes some part of the attacking players' body other than his head, any strike on the head of an opponent is illegal."

The Victorian delegate of the Australian Lacrosse Council was directed to vote in favour of those proposals. It is a little surprising to read the criticisms of the Victorian Colt's coach concerning Western Australian method of checking. There are grey areas in the propositions – deliberate viciousness, reckless abandon, the use of the body to defend a check, tapping motion – and no doubt the differences arose from the interpretations of these ill defined areas.

It was to remedy variations in the interpretation of rules that the Australian Lacrosse Referees' Association was formed. So that there might be unanimity among referees in all states the Australian Lacrosse Referees Association was given representation on the Australian Lacrosse Council, though with the qualification that it should have equal voting rights only on matters affecting playing rules. One immediate effect was that the Australian Lacrosse Referees Association was asked to establish a national grading of referees, based upon visual and oral examinations. It was asked to co-relate the systems of training and accrediting referees in the three states. It was also invited to index a set of 35mm slides, with rule interpretations to be used as the basis for the referee's examination.

The Australian Lacrosse Referees' Association urged each member state to appoint a referees' coach.

It is evident that the Australian Lacrosse Council was aware of the difficulties in gaining uniformity of interpretation, and that it acted constructively to meet the situation. It would be unrealistic to expect them to furnish instant solutions, but it was hoped that before the ambitious program of international

visits began the rules would be adequately standardised, and that such a standardisation would be recognised in all countries where the sport was played.

And the proposals for international games were ambitious. The long-term aim was to conduct a World Series in 1974, preferably in June or July, to commemorate the establishment of the game in Victoria in 1874. This was ambitious in itself. For a sport with an esoteric and amateur following to set out to challenge and entertain in Australia, teams from at least four and possibly six other countries would seem an impossibly difficult and expensive task. And then international contests must be organised so that the world would know that there was a Commonwealth of Australia, and that lacrosse was actively played in it. The first of the projects was already well underway. The visit to Australia by a team from Lancer's club in Baltimore was in the final stages of organisation. The minutes of the Australian Lacrosse Council held in Melbourne on 16 and 17 January record that the Lancer's club would play 9 matches in Australia, 3 matches in each state (Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia).

The International Liaison Officer was at this time directed to apply on behalf of the Australian Lacrosse Council to the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse for permission to stage a world series in Australia in 1974 to celebrate the centenary of lacrosse in Victoria. Potential contending bodies were to give replies, either of their definite commitment to take part or of their inability to do so by 16 January 1971. The Australian Lacrosse Council had committed itself to an ambitious project.

At the same gathering of the ALC, the International Liaison Officer was requested to make suitable approaches for Australia to send a team on an overseas visit in 1972. To be included were USA, Canada (in both cases east and west associations) England, and Hong Kong.

The Australian Lacrosse Council did not intend to diminish its already ambitious program of championships. A motion proposing that the 1972 Australian championships should be deferred to 1973 was lost.

To a less sanguine administration the prospect of so much responsibility to be carried by so few would have been daunting. Though the Australian Lacrosse Council lacks specific data, it expressed the belief that the number of registered players in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria had not varied significantly over the past few years.

The attempt to re-establish the game in Queensland had failed. It had been hoped that an association might be formed at Murwillumbah, in New South Wales, near the Queensland border. This had been instigated through the enthusiasm of an English migrant, Mr Howard Michalski, and had been supported by Queensland Lacrosse Association officials, especially Mr H P Evans.

An attempt was being made to establish Lacrosse in Canberra. Messrs C P Weatherill and R H Proctor, former prominent members of the VALA, indicated their willingness to endeavour to establish lacrosse as a spring sport. Equipment had been made available from the failed attempt to re-establish lacrosse in New South Wales. It was found to be in need of a great deal of repair and service, and Mr Weatherill and Mr Proctor were working hard to have the equipment ready for the spring of 1970.

Changes in the men occupying responsible places in any administration are inevitable. Men must go where their work takes them, others find that advancing years prevent them from continuing to accept responsibilities they once welcomed. Death takes its inevitable toll. The Australian Lacrosse Council paid respect to the late Messrs CEM Hickey, a patriarch of lacrosse in Western Australia, C Shultz who had done so much for the game in South Australia, HA Ralph and GS Reid who had served Victoria faithfully and for so long. Others were carrying their load, as is made evident from the granting of Australian Lacrosse Council's certificates of service. These were given to Messrs K Nesbit, L Morley, and R Turner of South Australia, C Gregory and R Proctor of Victoria, and C Allman of Western Australia. Mr Proctor during the year was transferred to Canberra, where he

joined another Victorian stalwart, C Weatherall, in instigating moves to establish lacrosse in Canberra.

As we have seen, in spite of these losses, and an apparent weakness in administration, a great deal was done in 1969 for the game at the domestic, the interstate and the international levels.

The 1970 season heralded great things. It was the beginning of a new epoch in the development of world lacrosse. The period of regular international competition followed the initiatives that brought the Lancer's Club of Baltimore, USA to visit Australia. This eminently successful visit demonstrated that modern air transport made possible world tours by teams from lacrosse playing countries to visit one another. The aeroplane had solved the time problem. An international tour was still expensive, but with round the world fares and group concessions, not unrealistically so.

The careful and wise preparations for the tour of the Lancer's Club had either directly or indirectly overcome many of the difficulties. Among the areas that required attention was the compilation of a uniform international code, the allocation of responsibilities for meeting expenses, the provision of accommodation for visiting teams and officials, and the establishment of an official organisation through which international teams could be sanctioned. It will be remembered that the Australian Lacrosse Council had created the position of International Liaison Officer, which, during the preparatory years, Mr Noel Jeffrey filled with distinction. Through his own touring experience Mr Jeffrey became acquainted with administrators in all the lacrosse playing countries. His wide business experience made him sensitive to protocol, and the areas of sensitivity between different countries. He breathed a new spirit into the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse.

This is not to minimise the work of the Australian Lacrosse Council. In spite of some coolness on part of member associations, the Council had encouraged every invitation for promoting Lacrosse at an international level.

With this in view, it will be remembered that the Australian Lacrosse Council had revised, if not revolutionised, the rules of the game as played in Australia. Following their experiences from the American tour, they tried to contrive a code which would be acceptable to lacrosseurs in both England and America, as well as in Australia. Their endeavours were largely successful; at any rate successful enough to make international competition feasible. Wisdom and patience are needed for these things. The supporters of the new rules did not find it easy at first, even among the lacrosse playing states, to depart from old tradition and accept new concepts in the game. They had, however, worked out a compromise that was acceptable to the influential supporters of the game centred in Baltimore. The Lancer's accepted the rules as proposed by the Australian Lacrosse Council, with minor reservations such as the employment of substitutes. The problem of international rules had been overcome, even if further consideration needed to be given to them at an international conference.

After the 1967 Australian tour of the United States it was evident that spheres of financial responsibility should be clearly defined. It had given inconvenience to some Australian players in America to find themselves called upon to provide their own meals and accommodation. It was deemed necessary by the Australian Lacrosse Council that travelling players should know exactly what expenses they must meet on tour. They had therefore drawn up a proposition stating that the visiting team must find its own fares from their point of origin to the first city where they were to play a fixture. They should meet their own fares between main cities, and their flights from the last city where they were to play matches. This suggestion was made because Australia at least the round the world fares included travel between the capital cities. The home association should provide all travel expenses within its own area. It should provide all lodging and meals for the visiting party within the city itself. It endorsed the principle of billeting, and required of the state associations that they should make all arrangements for board and lodging and for transport to fixtures and social engagements. This arrangement would allow the visiting association to budget accurately for the tour, and ensure that individual members should not unexpectedly find themselves liable for expenses.

The proposals succeeded excellently for the Lancer's tour, thanks largely to the officials of the various associations, and the generosity of those supporters who provided billets.

Thus a working principle was established which could make the financing of future tours feasible and reliable. The Australian Lacrosse Council anticipated future tours. Tentative arrangements were already in hand, culminating in the world championships held in Australia in 1974. It is no extravagant boast that the Australian Lacrosse Council laid the foundations in 1970 of the game as an international sport.

Before relating the main events of the Lancers tour, it is worth considering the numerical strengths of the member states of the Australian Lacrosse Council. The figures given in the annual report of the ALC are:

	SALA	VALA	WALA
Open Age	353	504	242
Under Age	364	934	505

This means that the responsibility for the tour was undertaken by 1099 men. They no doubt received strong support from the families of under-age players, I.E. 1803. This meant that about 1,000 men in Australia, and their families, would host in three capital cities a team of 25 men. Lacrosseurs may have been relatively small in numbers but they were certainly big in heart.

What was this Lancers Club? It was a club from the universities and schools in the vicinity of Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Some Australian administrators harboured the illusion that it was conducted by a Jewish organisation. This might have caused some difficulty for potential billet providers unaccustomed to Jewish diet and dietary customs. This misconception was soon corrected, and it was made clear that it was an unbiased organisation which welcomed members of all races, religious and nationalities, no special arrangements would be necessary for any member of the touring party. The ages of regular members of the Lancers team ranged from 19 to 21. Accompanying the team were three non regular members aged less than 19 years.

After some negotiation mutually acceptable dates were determined. The Lancer's party would fly from Auckland to Sydney on 25 June, arriving in Sydney at 7.45pm. They would then change to a domestic flight to Melbourne. The itinerary for the Lancer's in Victoria was:

Saturday, 27 June	1.20pm the Lancers arrived at Essendon Airport. They were taken by an airways bus to the Malvern Cricket Ground, where a buffet luncheon was provided for the Lancers party. (Malvern was playing Williamstown in A grade in the domestic competition upon their arrival). 6.30pm the Lancers were taken to the Caulfield Park Pavilion, where they were introduced to their billet hosts. This was followed by a buffet tea and a social evening.
Sunday, 28 June	Lancers vs. Victoria.
Monday, 29 June	The Lancers attend a civic reception at Melbourne Town Hall. There were then taken on a car trip to the Healesville Sanctuary. The Green Ball club was their hosts for a barbeque tea at Greensborough.
Tuesday, 30 June	The Lancers vs. combined universities. The evening was arranged by the universities.
Wednesday, 1 July	1.30pm Lancers vs. Victoria second team. 6.30pm Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association farewell dinner in the dining room of the Melbourne Cricket Club.
Thursday, 2 July	12.30m Lancers depart from Essendon Airport bound for Adelaide.

The Victorian clubs sponsoring the Lancers visit were: Melbourne University, Monash University, LaTrobe University, Caulfield, Chadstone, Footscray, Green Ball, Malvern, MCC, Melbourne High School Old Boys, Surrey Park and Williamstown.

The results were: Lancers 3 v Victoria (1) 27

Lancers 19 v Combined universities 10

Lancers 8 v Victoria (2) 15

The Lancers were farewelled from Melbourne with regret. Their demeanour on the field had been impeccable, and their behaviour towards their hosts ensured that they would be welcomed as guests at their homes at any time.

We should not proceed further without revealing who these distinguished visitors were and what were their individual characteristics. The accompanying tabulation arises from information supplied by Judge Hammerman to facilitate suitable matching of visitors with the people offering to provide billets.

Name	Lacrosse experience	College	Religion	Interests	Proposed career	Position	Age	Height	Weight (lbs)
Stephen F. Baron		Adelphi	Jewish			Manager	21	5'10"	153
Richard L. Beard	11	Princeton	Episcopal	Sailing, sports, nature study, reading	Writing, teaching, natural resources	Midfield	21	5'8½"	170
Eric S. Bergofsky	6	Johns Hopkins	Hebrew Christian	Sports	Environmental Engineering	Midfield	19	6'2"	200
Marc Fox	2	Randallstown Junior High	Jewish	Sports, coin collecting	Medicine	Midfield	15	5'4"	115
David R. W. Grant III	10	Princeton	Episcopal	Singing, writing, movie making	Movie making	Defence	19	6'2"	190
Gary Handleman	8	Johns Hopkins	Jewish	Coin collecting	Teaching	Midfield	20	5'11"	170
J. Gordon Gilbert Jnr	12	Virginia	Methodist	Tennis, skiing	Diplomacy in under developed countries	Midfield	19	5'11"	170
Tobin Harvey	1	Harvard	Protestant (Congregational)	Sports	Law	Midfield	20	5'11"	180
James A. Helfman	8	Rutgers	Jewish	Music, sports, writing	Teaching, professional music	Defence	21	6'4"	247
Bruce Herling	7	Catonsville	Jewish	Sports	Business management	Attack	21	5'8"	150
Joseph Loveland		Johns Hopkins	Catholic	Sports	Engineering	Midfield	21	6'1"	160
Mark D. Morris	10	Harvard	All religions	Mountaineering, astrophysics, unicycling	Astrophysicist	Midfield	20	6'1"	165
Stuart M. Nathan	7	Princeton	Jewish	Sports	Law, teaching	Defence	19	5'11"	215
David E. Nathans	6	Adelphi		Skiing, journalism	Law, teaching	Attack	19	5'6"	155
Samuel M. Oidick	8	Adelphi	Jewish	Sports	Business	Attack	20	5'10"	163
David B. Pickall	5	Johns Hopkins	Unitarian	Skiing, sailing, photography	Photography Nautical	Attack	20	5'11"	160
Clifford M. Rees	4	Pikesville High School	Jewish	Reading, sport, travel	Law, Government service	Midfield	18	5'9"	150
David M. Rubenstein		Duke	Jewish	Reading	Law	Attack	20	5'10"	150
Kurt L. Schmoke (Captain)	5	Yale	African Methodist, Episcopal	Sports	Law, public service	Midfield	20	5'10"	180
Paul L. Schecleman	2	Swarthmore	Jewish	Sports, cooking	Law, economics	Midfield	21	5'11"	160

Michael Silberman	4	Drew		Astronomy, sports	Anthropology, Planner Parenthood	Defence	21	5'8"	140
Robert J. Spence	4	Johns Hopkins	Protestant	Sports, music	Medicine	Defence	23	6'3"	171
Michael J. Stanton	10	Yale	Catholic	Fishing, canoeing, outdoors	Architecture	Goal	22	5'10"	171
Kenneth J. Strong		Rochester	Presbyteria n	Poetry, camping	Novelist, journalist	Manager	20	5'10"	138
Douglas R. Tarring	14	Virginia	Episcopal	Sports, tropical fish	Teaching	Attack	20	6'0'	160
Leroy Thompson Jnr	8	Park School	Episcopal	Dramatics, reading, sports	Psychology	Goal	16	5'6"	145
Eric W. Walsh	11	Harvard	Anglican	Guitar, cycling	Teaching	Defence	19	6'3"	195

This shows a group of idealistic, thoughtful and sensitive group of young men. They soon proved worthy of their welcome. Though it had been said that American teams were bigger than those of other countries, the statistics do not suggest that they were a team of goliaths. They were amateurs in every sense of the word. Typical of them was Jim Helfman, of whom a newspaper clipping has this to say:

"THE PIANO WAITS"

"Big Jim Helfman can wield a lacrosse stick with a lot of authority but he is more at home at the keyboard.

Jim, 21, 6ft 4 ins tall, and 18 stone is at present touring Australia with the Baltimore Lancers lacrosse team. Although a top defender, Jim's real love is the piano, and a life as a professional musician. He is pictured above strolling with Allison Gandy, the four year old daughter of his Melbourne hosts.

When he returns to America he will lay down his lacrosse stick and pick up his pen to write pop music.

Meanwhile, Jim's got a lot of lacrosse ahead of him. He has got to compete in the Australian lacrosse carnival in Adelaide on Sunday, and many other matches before going home.

Another personal sketch of a team member was published under the name of Rosemary Williams. The cutting is preserved in the archives of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association."

Unfortunately the date is not recorded, nor the paper from which it was taken. It reads:

"HOT (DOG) MONEY"

By Rosemary Williams

"The humble American hot-dog has enabled lacrosse player, David Grant, to see the world. David, 19, is from Princeton University, New Jersey, where he is studying for his B.A. As a side-line he owns and operates a hot-dog agency at the university where he rolls a trolley around selling hot-dogs to fellow students with help from his "sausage men".

He is a member of the Lancers Boys Club from Baltimore, Maryland. The club's lacrosse team is in Australia to compete for the Australian national lacrosse championships in Adelaide next week.

Profits from David's hot-dogs enabled him to join the team to tour Australia and visit many other countries."

"SINGER"

In many ways Dave is a jack of all trades. His activities not only lie in lacrosse, hot-dogs and his studies but is also a singer, and in his "spare time" compiles film documentaries.

Back home he is a member of the "Princeton Footnotes", a successful 14-man singing group. They sing all types of songs from rock to old ballads, and have engagements every weekend.

On this tour he has teamed up with fellow lacrosse player, Eric Walsh, to present a singing act as their official function in each country. Since their arrival in Australia they have been busy learning Waltzing Matilda.

Dave's souvenir of the trip will be a film documentary he is making of all the countries the team visits. This is the third film he has made, and he plans to show it to school groups and friends when he returns home.

Although Dave has only been here a few days he already has many nice things to say about us:

"We are bowled over by the Australian hospitality, especially evident in the typical beer-party we were given on the night of our arrival and the gracious way families are giving us accommodation during our stay. The friendships we make here will be everlasting.

Australia seems to have taken all the good (sic) parts of America with none of the drawbacks. Here you have a clean, healthy and comfortable life, but not the overcrowding, crime, drug and race problems of America.

Australia has the time and opportunity to head off America's problems. It's great to see that Australians are out to control pollution at an early stage before it gets out of hand as has happened in America." Dave said.

The American team consisting of 24 players, two managers, a coach, have played three matches in Victoria since their arrival last Saturday. They will fly to Adelaide and Perth for further games.

MAIN POINT

The main point of the Lancer's tour was to play lacrosse in Australia but non-playing trips to other countries have been built around the original idea.

Already the team has visited Honolulu, Fiji, New Zealand, and after Australia they will be heading for Singapore, Hong Kong, where they will play against the Chinese, Japan, to see Expo '70, India, Russia, Greece, Italy and France.

This is the fifth international trip by the Lancers and Dave describes it as "the big one" as it is the longest and most extensive.

The 83-day tour falls in with their American summer holidays making it a vacation they will never forget.

We should not conclude our survey of the young men who represent the Lancer's Club without making reference to the man who was their leader, Judge R. Hammerman. From the time of the Australian visit to America, he had envisaged a reciprocal tour by members of his famous boys club. He had supported every move that brought the dream to reality. His own high standards of morality and integrity must have set the pattern of behaviour of his boys.

The International Liaison Officer of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association expressed the feelings of Australia thus:

20 July 1970

"To coincide with the completion of the Lancer's tour of Australia, I have sent a suitable letter of appreciation to Judge Robert Hammerman in Baltimore. In it amongst other things, I have commented on the excellent behaviour and sportsmanship demonstrated by the entire group throughout the tour, their performance on the field, especially in the Lancers v Australia match, their popularity, and our appreciation of having such a fine group of young Americans in our midst.

“On behalf of Council, I have expressed our thanks for his efforts in organising the tour and have congratulated him on his work with the Lancer’s Club. In this regard, those of us who have spoken with the Lancers boys will, I am sure, be well aware that he is performing an outstanding community service....”

It is time now to relate the details about the games played by the Lancers. They arrived at Essendon Airport at 1.20pm on 27 June, after a long flight via New Zealand. They would have been tired, and not yet settled down when they played their first match in Australia. It was against the Victorian team, and played at the Malvern Cricket Ground. This, of course, is the middle of Victorian winter, and the muddy conditions were different from those under which they were used to playing at home. They may also have been lacking practice as a team. The result was a severe loss, by 3 goals to 27. They were beginning to find something more like their true form by Tuesday, 30 June, when they played a team from the combined universities at Monash University. They won this match by 19 goals to 10. Their third match in Victoria was played on Wednesday 1 July at the Albert Ground against a Victorian second team. Though beaten, they fared much better, the scores being Victoria (2) 15, Lancers 8.

These matches may have disappointed them a little, but they served as an excellent preparation for their main objective, to play in the Australian championship in Adelaide. Australian lacrosse players take their national championships seriously, but the Victorian matches had given the visitors a chance to adjust to Australian conditions, and Australian interpretations of the rules. The President of the Australian Lacrosse Council, Mr Harold V. Horner, in welcoming the Lancers said: “Never before in the history of interstate lacrosse championships has the stage been set for such an intensely interesting series. With our players now fully conversant with the new internationally based rules, and with a truly international component to be introduced to our 1970 championships by the Lancers team from Baltimore USA we can be assured of a feast of lacrosse.”

The first match played by the Lancers in South Australia was against the state second team. The South Australians won by 19 goals to 11. That took place on Saturday, 4 July, a day on which the Americans would no doubt have been pleased to achieve a victory. On Sunday 5 July, they played the South Australian first team, losing by 8 goals to 22. On the following Tuesday they played against the Victorian team, losing by 8 goals to 23. The following Thursday they played Western Australia, losing by the narrow margin of 4 goals to 7. It seemed that the Lancers had underestimated the quality of Australian lacrosse when they suggested that their team would be more than a match for Australian state sides. Their final game in South Australia was a match against an Australian side. They fared better in this game, scoring 13 goals to 17. The results of the championship were:

Western Australia	13	v	South Australia	16
Victoria	18	v	South Australia	11

The Victorian team thus proved themselves to be the champion team of Australia, and became the custodians of the Garland-McHarg Cup.

The all-Australian team chosen at the end of the championship to play the team from the United States of America was:

D. Fox	(Capt)	Vic
B. Griffin	(V. Capt)	WA
D. Norman		Vic
J. Kelly		Vic
J. O’Keefe		Vic
P. Collett		SA
G. Ross		Vic

B. Bengier	SA
I. Williams	SA
A. Rolley	Vic
P. Humphreys	Vic
G. Treloar	Vic
B. Stahmer	Vic
J. Carter	SA
W. Stubbs	WA
T. Allington(Coach)	Vic

The fixtures in Adelaide having been concluded, the Lancers flew to Perth. The Western Australian association and community reacted with pride and pleasure at having the American players visiting them. Mr. HV Horner, the President of the Western Australian Lacrosse Association and the Australian Lacrosse Council welcomed them in terms such as "Welcome Lancers of Baltimore. Welcome to Western Australia, the "State on the Move", Welcome to Perth, the city of light..." The publicity featured the visit as "International lacrosse", and billed their guests as THE LANCERS, American star university team..."

The Lancers played three games in Western Australia, 14 July 1970 versus Western Australia, second side 16 July versus a combined Western Australian team, and 18 July versus the Western Australian first team.

The newspaper, "The Independent", reports the third game as "an epic game, and a worthy end to a momentous visit. The American Lancers met strong opposition from WA before winning 17-16 in the men's lacrosse fixture at Lathlain Park yesterday. The highlight of the match was the last quarter, when WA down two goals, fought back on four occasions to lead the score in their attempt to win the game. The US side, however, were more settled in attack and even though WA levelled the score with them on four occasions, Sam Oidick, the wrecker for WA, replied on each occasion to score great goals. The scores were level at half-time at eight goals each, when US coach Graeme Menzies brought Doug Tarring from behind goals to play in front allowing him to use his strong shot from a distance. The move was successful when Tarring rattled off three goals, giving his side the advantage."

Thus ended a momentous tour, distinguished throughout by skill, and by maintaining the high standard of conduct both on and off the field that should distinguish amateur sport.

But the value of the Lancer's visit does not lie in their prowess on the field. Fine players as they were, they were inferior as the scores show, to all Australian state sides. The Lancer's visit ushered in a new era because it demonstrated that international lacrosse could be organised. Through the wise negotiations on both sides, it was demonstrated that a single, world-wide code of laws for the game could be compiled. It demonstrated how the financial responsibility for international tours could be equitably shared, and in such a way that visiting teams should be aware of the expenses their players must meet. The preparations for the tour revitalised the organisations already in existence for fostering international events. In this way it provided the machinery for regulating and arranging international events. Not only did it encourage games between countries, but the Australian Lacrosse Council already was undertaking the arrangement of visits by teams to Australia, and Australian teams to other countries. The Australian Lacrosse Council already set processes in motion to arrange a world lacrosse championship. The visit of the Lancers' Club to Australia did far more for lacrosse than merely arrange a series of matches against a team of sportsmen of the highest calibre. This visit was the beginning of an epoch. As such, it merits the full treatment we have given it.

In addition to the visit of the Lancers, and the Australian championship held in Adelaide, the Australian Lacrosse Council conducted, through the Western Australian Lacrosse Association, the junior championship.

The Western Australian Lacrosse Association extended a cordial welcome to the boys from the other states. They arranged a full social program, and conducted the tournament excellently. The results were:

Victoria	23	v	South Australia	14
Victoria	35	v	Western Australia (2)	8
Western Australia (1)	14	v	Victoria	11

The Western Australians emerged as the junior champions of 1970, a result giving great encouragement to the administrators of the game in that state.

It must be evident that conducting championships at three levels biennially must impose considerable expense to the rank and file of lacrosse players. The cost must be met by relatively few players, whether the money is raised directly or by special efforts. In spite of the financial burden borne by players to pay for these series of championships, the Australian Lacrosse Council was prepared to press on with international commitments. Australia could not provide a truly representational side without the interstate championships providing candidates for selection. And the interstate championships rested equally firmly on each state inter-club competition. We must remember that as well as the international visit by the Lancers, the domestic seasons of the various states must go on.

The following interesting statistics arose in Victoria:

- (a) Malvern played in their 47th consecutive A grade final;
- (b) Williamstown Fearon won their 47th consecutive A grade game;
- (c) Five A grade players threw over 100 goals for the season;
- (d) Five clubs shared the premiership honours.

The number of registered players, and the enthusiasm which the play generated was not the cause for potential anxiety. The danger lay in the apparent weakness in administration. In his presidential address Mr Henry Volk is quoted in the annual report as saying:

“From an association administration viewpoint, however, 1970 has been a somewhat disappointing and frustrating year. To begin with, the association had no secretary, assistant secretary or treasurer – three of the key positions as far as administration are concerned. Our sincere thanks therefore to Charles Gregory and Noel Melville, who rather than see the association’s administration grind to a halt agreed to act in the positions of secretary and treasurer respectively, although their commitments limited the time they could give to these duties.”

Having reluctant men occupying these positions is dangerous. It means that there is unlikely to be much dynamic thinking in the leadership of the association if the two most important positions are occupied by reluctant incumbents.

The situation may have arisen partly through the relative decline of the Malvern club. For years Malvern had provided active officials and led the way in forward thinking. By 1970 Malvern’s tally of registered open-age players was 50, still a strong club, but Caulfield was 67 and Williamstown 78. There were indications that any new inspiration or momentum might come from Williamstown. This shift in influence may have had a bearing on the quality of the administration. There were minor indications that Victoria might lose its pre-eminence in Australian lacrosse. In connection with the Lancer’s visit, Western Australia and South Australia used post office boxes for their administration; Victoria used a private address. South Australia officially opened its Memorial Lacrosse Pavilion. Progress at the Marlborough Street ground (This ground in East Bentleigh was leased from the local council as an association ground and also contained a purpose built box-lacrosse court) seems to have been given low priority in Victoria. Nor was any other constructive proposal to establish an alternative association headquarters presented to the members of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse

Association. That association may be sinking into a tired spent force. Its potential rejuvenation lay in 1971.

The 1971 season was one which might indicate the beginning of the end in Victorian lacrosse, or it might mark the beginning of a new era, not only in Victoria but throughout the world.

It is probably time now to consider the condition of lacrosse in Victoria. Victoria had long been the leading state, and it was still numerically the strongest. The welfare of lacrosse in Victoria might indicate its welfare throughout the Commonwealth. It is equally imaginable that another state might assume the leadership and give new impetus to the game. This is unlikely.

It is a truism that the condition of any sport anywhere is only as good as its administration. A survey of the administration of lacrosse in Victoria in 1971 is far from encouraging. The first striking deficiency is that the association had no secretary and no treasurer. The affairs of the executive got by through the loyal service of men who were not committed to assume the office. No doubt they were busy men of integrity and ability, but they could give only the fringes of their attention to bear upon the affairs of the association. The strategy of the administration was reflected in the results of games at interstate levels. In the senior level, South Australia defeated Victoria and thus held the Symonds Cup. In the Colts championship South Australia won the championship. Even at club level the President, Mr H. Volk deplored the situation where many clubs could only offer mediocre competition.

In addition to these may be added temporary committees set up for special purposes. There was also some doubling up of officers. But it is evident that a high proportion of officials were required to administer a relatively low number of participants. But there were promising movements being investigated. These may have arisen from the beneficial influence of the balance of power among the clubs having been changed. Williamstown was by now much the strongest of the clubs. This was shown by their winning 5 out of 9 of the sections, and 3 of the A sub-sections. Largely through the influence of that club the constitution of the association was modified.

At the annual general meeting of 1970 a series of amendments were made to the constitution. By these every club was to be represented on a new committee of management, which would conduct the affairs of the association in 1971. An improvement in the quality of lacrosse was evident, for Victoria retained the Garland McHarg Cup for the championship of Australia.

The annual report of 1971 was able to state:

"The association is now administered by a single committee comprised of delegates from each of the clubs. But the problems faced by the new organisation were outlined in the previous section:

Membership

Total registered membership was 991, comprising 478 open age players and 513 under age players. This represents a decrease in open ranks of 26 registrations compared with the 1970 figures, and an increase of 83 registrations in under age. The total number of clubs has declined to 16 with the loss of Monash University. This loss is most regretted by the committee and we trust that efforts to restore this club will be successful in the near future.

Clearly as the record reports demonstrated, our number of registered players has not shown any significant increase in recent years. Viewed against the substantial growth achieved by other amateur sporting bodies and against the general population increase we can only conclude that lacrosse is becoming more and more a minor sport."

This sad situation does not necessarily apply to all the state associations, but it does indicate that things were not well in that state which prided itself on its supremacy. Nevertheless, not all was gloomy. For many years the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association had been trying to create a headquarters. For some years hopes had been raised by the acquisition of the lease for the ground at Marlborough Street from the Moorabbin City Council. Some money and effort had been excised

to bring the area to a sufficient dignity to act as the headquarters for an important sport. The project does not seem to have received the support of the individual clubs of the association. It was deemed to be far from central and too far into the realms of clubs south of the Yarra. As any citizen of Melbourne will tell you, the Yarra is the river that divides the living from the dead.

In 1971 the Melbourne City Council offered the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association the lease of an area in Royal Park. The area was largely undeveloped, and a considerable sum would be required to bring the surface to a suitable condition. There were pavilion facilities. Now this was a central location, and near enough to the centre of the city to arouse no jealousies on the parts of those members of the association, north or south of the Yarra. One of the conditions of the lease was that the ground be used constantly for lacrosse. To meet this condition the committee proposed to make extra space available for domestic competition. It was also considered that this central area would become the venue for training state teams.

Whether the new surface would attract players, and fulfil the functions anticipated by the committee, the bold action showed that there was still life and vigour in the administration of lacrosse.

Major as the influence of the Victorian Lacrosse Association had been in the past, and would be in the future, the historical fact in 1971 was that the greatest force in the administration of the game in Australia was the Australian Lacrosse Council. As we have already stated a new day had dawned for world lacrosse, and the Australian Lacrosse Council would well claim a major share in widening the horizons of the new sunrise.

We may not presume to summarise that the Australian Lacrosse Council instigated international competition, but it may well claim a leading place in organising them effectively and on a permanent and regular basis. The outstanding consideration is that the Australian Lacrosse Council saw the possibility of regular world championships. It aimed to stage the first in Australia to mark the centenary of lacrosse being played in Australia. It took almost as a corollary that other world championships would follow in other parts of the world and for equally distinctive reasons.

But you cannot merely pick up the telephone and propose to some sympathetic colleague in another country that such a thing was an interesting proposition. Press the switch and it was done. After its series of international ventures the Australian Lacrosse Council was in a singularly fortunate position to analyse the problems and provide solutions.

The problems began at home. Suppose some such ambitious project was to be carried out, a scheme of selection and appointment of officers must be devised which would inspire Commonwealth wide support with a minimum of interstate friction. Few conglomerates of countries exhibited more imbedded jealousy and friction than was to be found in the Australian continent. The Australian Lacrosse Council, having committed itself to an overseas visit as a preliminary to the world championships of 1974 to be held in Australia, appointed a committee to devise the over-all conduct of the organisation and conduct of the tour. The committee comprised of: Mr N. R. Jeffrey, International Liaison Officer; Mr P. J. Drew of the South Australian Lacrosse Association; Mr R. N. Ponton of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association; and Mr L. S. Turnbull of the Western Australian Lacrosse Association.

This was a group of experienced men, each highly respected in his own state. There may be elements of bias towards Victoria, but it must be remembered that Mr. N Jeffrey no longer served actively on the Victorian administration, but had for some time held the position under the Australian Lacrosse Council of the International Liaison Officer, and had been given full authority to instigate and carry out propositions with international officials and organisations. It is difficult to imagine a better chosen committee.

It is relatively easy to conceive a grandiose scheme, but far less easy to arouse practical interest in it, especially when the interest must be demonstrated through the bank account. An informative booklet was compiled, stating the proposed program of matches, the expenses that would be met by hosts, the expenses that members must be prepared to defray from their own resources. One

need not detail all the possibilities, but the committee examined the matters closely, and potential members knew accurately what expenses they would need to face.

Under Mr Jeffrey's guidance an itinerary was devised. Its course would be roughly west to east; it would include North America, England, Europe and Hong Kong. The tour would last 8 or 10 weeks.

On 15 February 1971, Mr Jeffrey was able to terminate a letter with the words: "The purpose of this statement is to indicate to all senior lacrosse players and officials in Australia that the tour is definitely on and to encourage all those who are eligible to begin planning to make the trip." The decision had been made. It now remained to implement it. A huge amount of work was to be done, and it was important that the work should be well done, because this was the model on which subsequent tours would be conducted.

The selection of players received attention. After their previous experiences the committee decided that the official party should consist of 21 players and 5 officials. This decision was made before the selection of individuals would be considered. This was to be an Australian representative side, and therefore it was required that candidates should meet certain standards. A tour was undertaken by amateurs largely at their own expense might not contain all the best exponents of the game. Some might not be able to afford it; others might not be able to get leave from their work. It was decided that nominees for places in the team must be players of either Colts or senior Interstate standard, and must be current players resident in Australia.

Subject to the nominations received the selected team should consist of 2 goalkeepers, 4 specialised defence men, 4 specialised attack men and 11 midfielders. Where practicable, preference should be given to big fast men and physically strong midfielders. If possible, 2 emergencies should be named for each of the field categories, to stand by in the case of withdrawal of selected players. The presence of wives at international tours had already in various international teams proved inconvenient. The committee laid down clearly to players and officials that, wives accompanying the team would be regarded as part of a supporters group, and that the interests of wives would at all times rank second to those of the team. Early team selection was essential. The time table drawn up was:

- (a) 31 July 1971 - Available players to nominate for selection to their respective state association secretaries.
- (b) 31 August 1971 – Officials were to be selected by ALC postal ballot.
- (c) 30 September 1971 – Selection of players to be completed.

Each state was required to appoint a special selection sub-committee, comprising the ALC delegate, the state coach and one other. Each state association should call for nominations for team officials and players. These nominations should be delivered to the ALC secretary by 31 July 1971. The ALC secretary should conduct a special postal ballot for selection of team officials no later than 31 August 1971. The ALC, at a special meeting convened for the purpose at which the elected team manager and coach would make the final team selection no later than 30 September 1971.

A special consideration for selection was the players' previous reputation concerning behaviour and conduct. The committee was all too aware of the poor reputation brought upon by some Australian lacrosse players in Canada, and appreciative of the exemplary behaviour of the Baltimore Lancers Club. Penalties and even the possibility of expulsion from the team were included in the contracts of players selected as Australian representatives in 1972. It is clear that the administrators in 1971 had done all in their power to avoid all interstate jealousies, and to recruit the best team possible to represent Australia.

There were five officials, the team manager, the team coach, the assistant to the team manager, the assistant to the team coach and the trainer. It was only too likely that there might be differences of opinion, even arising to altercation, between officials. The committee therefore drew up in detail the responsibilities and privileges of each official position. Harmony and effective administration are

brought about more by mutual respect and good sense than by regulation, but the survey and allocation of duties ensured that there would be a responsible officer to deal with such contingencies as may arise.

On the previous trip the supporters group had provided some difficulties. The sub-committee therefore legislated to reduce any potential cause of friction to a minimum. They believed that supporters, including the wives of players and officials should be encouraged to attend. Among the previous supporters there had been many who joined the party merely to enjoy economical experience in travel. For many of them the games they saw in America were their first experiences of lacrosse. This had led to certain variations of interest, and led to embarrassment and friction. It was therefore decided that supporters for the 1972 tour would be accepted only if they had a past or present interest in lacrosse. It was evident that circumstances might arise where hosts might find difficulty in providing accommodation for more than the Australian team and its officials. Members of the support group were therefore strongly advised to secure membership of the YMCA or the YWCA before departure, in case at some stage of the tour they needed to find their own accommodation.

The support group were required to nominate a spokesman whose responsibility would be to effect liaison with the manager and the assistant to the manager, to co-operate with them at all times, and look to them for guidance. He would act as the supporters' organiser. This prevented unpleasant situations where abrasive men, or generous subscribers to the tour finances from looking for special privileges, or from forming little trouble groups among supporters who fancied themselves as having been exploited.

It was made clear that members of the supporters group would not be regarded as part of an official party. An order of precedence is sometimes needed for official gatherings. The Australian Lacrosse Council president or an Australian Lacrosse Council vice president might well be, at any rate for part of the tour, be a member of the supporters group. In such a case, with the agreement of the host party, the ALC president or vice president should rank equally with the team manager and coach. It was hoped that by such provisions all likelihood of jealousies between officials would be avoided. The team selectors on tour should comprise the coach, the team captain and the assistant coach.

We need not detail the items of uniforms worn by members of the team at various occasions but we must realise that match uniforms, practice gear, formal clothing, informal costume, ties, belts, and badges need careful designing, wise choice of materials, and skilful manufacture. They cannot be provided hastily, and these matters of clothing and uniform required much skill, time and work on behalf of the Committee of 1971. We must never lose sight of the fact that the ultimate aim of the exercise was to the hosting of the world championships in Melbourne in 1974. The 1972 touring team was the show-case of Australian lacrosse. Nor can there be any doubt that the Australian Lacrosse Council produced a masterly document, which could well be the model of organisation of future international tours.

The itinerary of the tour was planned to be as follows:

Approx. No. of days incl. travel	Venue
3	Melbourne
5	Los Angeles
5	San Francisco
3	Bowling Green University, Toledo Ohio
4	Denison University, Grantville Ohio
7	Baltimore, Maryland
5	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
	(Cornell University, New York State)
10	Cortland State Teachers' College, New York State,
	Yale University, Connecticut
3	New York for sight seeing
7	London: 1 or 2 matches

3	Paris
3	Rome
5	Hong Kong University
3	Singapore
	Return to Australia approximately 25 May 1972.

The closing date for nominations for players and officials was 31 July 1971, to state associations.

It was unfortunate that at this advanced stage in negotiations; Mr Noel Jeffrey was obliged to tender his resignation from the position of International Liaison Officer. His services in this position had been invaluable as had his contribution to the Australian Lacrosse Council generally, and the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association. He, already a senior executive in his firm, had been promoted to a higher position overseas. It was anticipated that he would be absent from Australia for several years. This was a severe loss at this particular time. Nominations for his replacement were requested by 24 August 1971.

The result of the ballot conducted through the associations resulted in the appointment of the following officials:

Tour Manager:	Mr L.S. Turnbull (WALA)
Tour Coach:	Mr T. Allington (VALA)
Assistant to the Manager	Mr B.W. Wilkinson (VALA)
Assistant to the Coach	Mr F.D. Hogarth (VALA)
Trainer	Mr J.C. Walker (VALA)

As International Liaison Officer, Mr W.G. Hobbs (SALA) was appointed. Mr Don Harris (VALA) had undertaken to act as organiser of the support group.

The account of the tour is material for the 1972 season as may any assessment of its effects on Australian of world lacrosse. Further possible developments on the rules and play of the game may arise in the report of 1972. But, the part played by the Australian Lacrosse Council, its officials and organisers occupied much attention in 1971. It is quite remarkable how a sport played by a comparatively small number of players can produce so many skilful and devoted administrators.

It may be claimed that the season 1972 was one of the most important for Victorian and world lacrosse. Had events taken a different turn, it is probable that within a few years lacrosse would cease as a sporting activity.

As the situation was, there was no real cohesion in international lacrosse. Though there were similarities in the game as played in different countries, but there were also fundamental differences. Lacrosse, we are told, arose from ancient Red Indian rites, particularly those associated with victory in battle. As such every able bodied male took part, with no restriction in time, space or manner. Modern day lacrosse is historically documented as beginning in 1844, when the first recorded game played by white man took place in Montreal (New Canadian Advertiser, date not given). What the rules were, or who devised them is not stated, but the position may have been similar to that of the first football match in Melbourne in which one team played according to association rules and the other according to rugby. The game must have gained shape and taken on popularity, for it reached Australia in 1874, presumably in an organised form. But with the game spreading among other countries, each with its ethos of sport, and each with a degree of jealousy toward the other, divergence in the laws of the game soon became apparent. It is likely that the game would have died of itself, or changed its character to such a degree as to make the common origin indistinguishable, as, for instance, cricket and baseball. Thus the unification of the rules, given such impetus by the Australian authorities, and taken up with some reluctance by other lacrosse playing countries may have saved the game from becoming an isometric exercise played under various names, in different regions; or indeed from complete disintegration. Of course, the need to standardise rules had begun in 1972, but by 1972 sufficient important contacts had been made in different parts of the world for real progress to have been made. The names of men such as Noel Jeffrey and Laurie Turnbull carried weight in international deliberations and Judge Hammerman in

America carried similar influence. The project of a world championship in 1974 made it imperative that a generally accepted code of laws must be devised added the final incentive.

It must be accepted that in 1972 this prospect was by no means certain. For one thing, the estimate of their skill held by the Australian lacrosseurs was by no means universal. There were clubs in the United States who refused to accept a fixture with the 1972 touring side because they considered that the Australians would not reach a standard to give them worthwhile competition. The superiority of the Australian team was soon evident and added weight to discussions about the world championships in Melbourne in 1974.

There was less divergence between the English code of rules and the Australian, than between the English and American. Students of sports history will be aware that this was a period of vigorous dissension over the distinction between amateur and professional. In many contests the ill-feeling became very strong and left to themselves it is very unlikely that agreement would be reached between England and America.

It would take too long to detail all the differences. The main one was perhaps the degree of roughness allowed in America compared with other countries. Though beating one's opponent with the crosse was permissible in the USA, it was abhorrent to Australians and Englishmen. The amount of "checking" (in other sports "bumping" or "body contact") was also much more widely allowed. The wise deliberations of the representatives of the countries reduced these differences to manageable standards.

The use of substitutes was a cause of friction. All countries agreed that there should be 10 men on the field at a time, but the number of times substitutions could be made was unlimited in America. Thus the Australian team numbering 21 only, frequently opposed groups of 45. This of course, laid a great strain on the team with the smaller number of substitutes. The difference arose, apparently, from a difference in "tradition". English and American clubs selected a team with a proper quota of substitutes. Other members did not play, or formed a second team. In the American system every member of the club was entitled to play: there were no second teams.

There were many other differences, in which some of the American laws were better. The rules applying in Canada, the home of the game, were more widely different. In Canada, lacrosse had become an almost exclusively professional game, played by teams 6 a side. Few Canadians had any experience of games played ten aside. For this reason among others, no match was played in Canada. The prestige of the 1972 touring side was such that their views received consideration. It may be no exaggeration to state that the game of lacrosse achieved its unified form during the 1972 season, though the result of the work was not fully evident until 1974.

A game is more than rules. Rules are only the framework within strategy and tactics may be applied. The Australian Lacrosse Council realised this. Its plans began by ensuring that the team selected, would consist of the biggest men available. Even then the stature of the players available would not equal the height and weight of the American teams, chosen as they were from American footballers exercising themselves in their off-season. Thus it was necessary for the coach appointed by the Australian Lacrosse Council to analyse the style of game played in America, and devise a set of counter measures. This made all the more difficult because the members of the team came from three different states, each several hundred miles from the other. To overcome this, the Australian Lacrosse Council coach, Mr. Terry Allington, drew up a sheet of coaching instructions which his colleagues in the other states could put into practice.

The first necessity Mr. Allington perceived was fitness. The Australian team would be matched not only against bigger men, but also against teams with an almost unlimited number of substitutes available. Fitness such as he foresaw as necessary could not be achieved before the time when the team members gathered in Melbourne. He therefore directed that training should begin about the middle of October. Players should then begin a regime of jogging or running at least ten miles a week. This should be increased in the New Year. The tactics should be similar to those which had

characterised the best state teams for many years. The basis of this strategy should be fast movement of ball and men.

American lacrosse players indulged in a rugged game, of which "checking" was a dominant feature. Terry Allington regarded useless checking as a waste of time. It also gave rise to useless penalties. His counter to this aspect of American rigour was to train a team with enough stamina and speed to force them out of position.

The Australian team must be fast enough, both with running and stick work to prevent the Americans from settling down and dictating the pace of the game. He had observed when American teams had the ball behind the goals, they always hold it until their players were in position. The Australians would counter these tactics by harassing the men behind the goals all the time.

He instructed that all Australian players should become adept at running with the stick in one hand. Australian tradition was to carry it with two hands, but Americans have adopted a technique of carrying the stick in one hand and covering the ball with the other. If the Australians adopted this American technique, their opponents would be taken by surprise.

The American enthusiasm for, and rigor in checking must be countered. The Coach suggested Australian players should keep their shoulders close to the Americans when they have the ball and are being checked. The orthodox reaction of a player is to get away from his man, but this allows the checker more power to the stick, and this is what the checker will expect you to do. By keeping your body close to the American it will restrict his checks, particularly if we can delete the "poke" check from the rules.

Australian teams should adopt the practice of two to one on ground balls. This was needed because of the American practice of checking off the opponent about to take control of the ball. The technique was new to Australians because of differences in the rules of checking. Concentration on this form of play would therefore be necessary. The resounding success brought about by Terry Allington's wise directions and the loyalty with which they were practiced is evident from the high degree of success the team received.

But the best of coaches and the wisest of managers cannot produce first-class results without the calibre of players capable of being brought to this standard of excellence. This, then, is the appropriate time to see who the members of the team were, and what types of men were chosen. The lists here made available followed the scheme laid down by Judge Hammerman to facilitate congenial billeting during the visit of the Lancer's Club

Australian Team Members							
Name	City	Religion	Career interests	Experience	Age	Height	Weight (lb)
Turnbull L S (Lawrie)	Perth	Anglican (Episcopalian)	Business proprietor, Councillor City of Perth, Member Prison Parole Board, Member Fire Brigades Board, President Australian Council of Justices' Association, squash, water skiing, surfing.	Manager 44	57	5'11"	182
Allington T (Terry)	Melbourne	Methodist	General manager clothing stores, G golf, interested in all sports.	Coach 37	50	5'10½"	140
Harris D (Don)	Melbourne	Baptist	Service station proprietor, water skiing, camping, historical societies.	Assistant Manager 10	28	5'11"	154
Hogarth F D (Frank)	Melbourne	Catholic	Lecturer, cricket, fishing, touring.	Assistant Coach 42	59	5'7½"	172
Walker J C (Jim)	Melbourne	Protestant	Vegetable grower, Masonic lodge, agriculture, all sports, Australian rules football.	Trainer 7	43	5'8"	154
Carter J (John)	Adelaide	Protestant	Teacher, sport (Womens' softball coach), automobile rallying, squash, art, lacrosse clubs.	Captain	27	5'6"	160
Speck N J (Noel)	Adelaide	Methodist	School teacher, education, all sports.		22	6'0"	192
Stiglich P E (Peter)	Melbourne	Church of England	Public servant, Royal Australian Reserve Forces, water skiing, surfing, squash.		24	6'0½"	188
Stubbs J W (Bill)	Perth	Church of England	Salesman, spear fishing, water skiing, horse racing.	18	29	5'10"	160
Thompson R C (Tomo)	Adelaide	Church of England	Bank officer, cricket, table tennis	11	25	6'1"	176

Thompson D (Dave)	Perth	Anglican (Episcopalian)	Air traffic controller, water skiing, surfing, cricket, places of scenic beauty.	10	25	5'8"	160
Toy I F (Ian)	Perth	Methodist	Bank officer, Sailing, all sports	14	25	6'1"	185
Turnbull R S (Ross)	Perth	Anglican (Episcopalian)	Retail manager, Beach buggying, water skiing, sailing, car racing.	12	23	5'11½"	190
Twomey R C (Ron)	Melbourne		Electrical mechanic, water skiing, all sports.	9	22	6'1"	210
Hobbs P B (Peter)	Adelaide	Church of England	Public accountant, surf life saving, swimming, water polo.	18	25	6'0"	175
Kelly J F (Kel)	Melbourne	Catholic	Expeditor, squash, table tennis, swimming.	10	24	5'7"	196
Antrim G D (Bluey)	Melbourne	Protestant	Boiler maker, squash, tennis.	8	22	5'9"	144
Raggatt M J (Mike)	Adelaide	Methodist	Public servant, sailing, surfing.	10	22	5'11½"	190
Read K A (Ken)	Melbourne	Protestant	State sales manager, discussion groups, gardening, business studies.	12	29	5'5"	168
Scott R J (Rod)	Perth	Presbyterian	Assistant manager – car parking enterprise, all sports, general commerce, travel.				
Fox D W (Doug)	Melbourne	Protestant	Lecturer, educational associations, golf, tennis, education, investments.	Vice Captain 17	27	6'3"	195
Attenborough R J (Roger)	Adelaide	Protestant	Marketing officer, squash, tennis, fishing, modern music.	15	26	5'1½"	172

Datson A M (Dato)	Melbourne	Protestant	Toolmaker, Australian rules football, boating, squash, car racing.	13	26	5'11½"	185
Falland D D (Dennis)	Adelaide	Church of England	Electrical instrument maker, electronics, photography, basketball, squash.	7	22	5'10"	172
Griffin B J (Brian)	Perth	Church of England	Insurance broker, company director, motor bikes trials and scrambles, squash, tennis.	18	30	5'10"	172
Hislop M S (Mick)	Adelaide	Presbyterian	Accountant	15	25	6'2"	192

There is little doubt that the 1972 tour would not have inspired other nations to commit themselves to the world championships if they had shown the sort of form demonstrated by previous touring teams. The American lacrosse public was in fact astounded at the quality of the Australian play. There would be little incentive for the best American players to make the journey to Australia merely to give the players down under a lesson. It is necessary to provide a complete list of games, for many names would mean little at this time. In short, the Australians played against 13 of the best teams in the United States. They were beaten twice; once by the Carlings club and once by Cornell University.

The Carlings club was regarded as the strongest in the country, and won by one goal. It may be worth considering that this was the first time the Australians had played under lights. Their performance had aroused great admiration. Even more importantly, the Australian team made many influential friends. The Australians also lost to Cornell University by 11 goals to 16. Cornell used 39 players whilst Australia used only 20.

In England their successes were even more surprising. They beat the South of England team 28 goals to 2, the English team by 19 to 8.

The Australian team was met with great cordiality in England. Members were invited to the Centurian dinner in the House of Commons. The manager in his official report wrote: "I report that formal discussions were held with the appropriate officers in America, Canada and England. Where the writer had had some misgivings as to the possibility of Canada and England sending a team to Melbourne in 1974 for the anticipated world series, these are now changed considerably. Coincidentally, both those teams receive from their respective governments 50% of the airfares necessary to send teams overseas. A full report will be forthcoming from the Liaison Officer of the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse, I will briefly say that it appears almost certain that we can expect a team from all countries in 1974." Mr. Turnbull concluded his report in these words: "There is no doubt in my mind that the greatest achievement of the team, was the wonderful international relations which has been further cemented between so many families of all ages, university students and leading sporting identities." There is no doubt that the 1972 international tour was a wonderful success in every way.

The publication "All Sports" (1 June 1972) wrote: "We have been told exclusively that following the success of the tour, the World Lacrosse Federation, has selected Melbourne as the host city for the 1974 world series to mark the centenary of the game in Australia."

Details of the games are:

In America:

Australia	15	v	South California All Stars	3
Australia	29	v	Naval Port Graduate School, Monterey California	6
Australia	12	v	North California All Stars	3
Australia	15	v	Bowling Green State University	6
Australia	9	v	Denison University	4
Australia	16	v	Mount Washington Lacrosse Club	15
Australia	12	v	Carlings Lacrosse Club	13
Australia	14	v	Yale University	6
Australia	11	v	Cornell University	16
Australia	28	v	Fairfield Country Lacrosse Club	4
Australia	27	v	Yorktown Athletic Club	5
Australia	28	v	Hurlingham Park	2

In England:				
Australia	19	v	England	3
Australia	28	v	South of England	2

The result being 15 games played, 13 wins and 2 losses.

So many resources having been devoted to the great project of 1972 some concern was expressed about the feasibility of carrying out the normal activities of a lacrosse season. It was realised that the international contingent numbered only 21 players. The absence of 7 or 8 of the best players from a state would certainly weaken state teams, and might affect the eventual winners of the McHarg Cup. On the other hand the absence of these players would give the opportunity to an equal number of up-and-coming players first class experience.

The Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association was at some difficulty through the transformation of the administration. It is normally far easier for clubs to find fault with the policies and practices of an Executive Committee than it is to share in the decision making and work itself. The President reported that the Management Committee had been effective, but several clubs failed to be regularly represented. They were therefore insufficiently informed about the administrative decisions of the association. Another disheartening aspect was that the outstanding club dues amounted to over \$1,000. But the association sub-committees were working well, and it was reasonable to predict that the teething troubles of the new organisation would soon be remedied. It was felt that the training of juniors was highly important, unfortunately the scheme to provide referees for all under-age games had failed.

The committee reiterated its determination to foster growth, there were signs of success. The number of registered players in Victoria was 1,060, of which 476 were open age and 584 under age players. This represented an increase of 71 juniors. The number of junior players was the highest ever registered. The committee was prepared to support all projects to foster growth, and was prepared to take the initiative in the promotion of the game among juniors. University High School Old Boys club and the Altona club had entered teams in junior ranks, Camberwell-Glen Iris continued its expansion, Chadstone and Surrey Park now both had senior teams, Caulfield was considering a scheme to sponsor a junior local competition. Plans were also well advanced in the Doncaster-Nunawading area. The physical distance between many clubs presented a problem. A scheme to simplify this by organising a western and eastern division had not been enthusiastically put into place. It is evident that the distraction of the travel distance was having no harmful effect on attracting new young players to lacrosse in Victoria.

There seemed to be some deterioration in interest among high schools and technical schools, but competition matches between these groups was successfully made. The potential for encouraging the game among these schools was high but clubs had failed in being involved with the sponsorship of these schools and to take charge of their administration.

In the matter of grounds also, progress was made. The association retained occupation of the Marlborough Street ground and also had two grounds marked out for lacrosse at Royal Park. For these, sets of metal goal frames were purchased, and they were to be used for mid-week games and for the training of state team squads. Quite clearly, the preoccupation of the association in its support of the Australian Lacrosse Council's overseas tour, the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association did not lose sight of the primary aim of lacrosse clubs and the association.

Though Victoria must relinquish the championship cup which it had held since 1965, the essential point remains that in spite of the distractions of having a conquering team overseas, business continued at home. Big things were developing for the Australian Lacrosse Council and its constituent associations. Broad shoulders and strong hearts would be needed to allow them to arrive at their promised magnitude.

It is difficult to recount the activities of the season of 1973. Everything was overshadowed by the aspirations for the next year. And the responsibility for the success of 1974 depended upon the activity of so many authorities. First of all, as the world championships were beyond state boundaries, the Australian Lacrosse Council was the ultimate authority. However, the idea developed from the intention to celebrate one hundred years of lacrosse in Australia. As the one hundred years began with the introduction of lacrosse in Victoria, and the official matches were played in Melbourne, the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association was responsible for the detailed conduct and organisation of the world series. The Australian team was to be chosen from all southern states, and the visiting international teams were to play matches in all three states, a degree of responsibility fell upon them all.

But the world series was not the only activity to be carried out during the season. The base on which the whole structure rested was of course the membership of the clubs that made up the various associations. In spite of other commitments the game must be successfully conducted at this base level. Above all there were certain interstate fixtures which the Australian Lacrosse Council had decided should not be cancelled or postponed for a year.

A reduced number of Victorian technical schools took part but no competition was conducted among the high schools. A combined high schools v technical schools was conducted at LaTrobe University, which the high schools won comfortably. There was reason to suppose therefore that a resurgence of the Wednesday competition was likely. In an attempt to extend the appeal of lacrosse two A1 section matches were arranged on the Melbourne University ground at Royal Park, but the time was not yet ripe for participation in Sunday games.

Box lacrosse had its adherents, and it was hoped that this activity would lead to a more active support of lacrosse, but it had not yet proved to be the incentive that its supporters had anticipated.

However, the full and enthusiastic attendance at the presentation dinner dance, organised by Camberwell-Glen Iris club, showed that lacrosse players in clubs in Victoria had enjoyed the season. At this function Jeff Kelly (Malvern) was the recipient of the Vince Healy Trophy award for the best and fairest player of 1973.

The preoccupation with the world series had no adverse effect on the normal Australian Lacrosse Council's program of interstate matches. This was the year scheduled for the Colt's championships. The Australian Lacrosse Council's Colt's championships, played in South Australia in 1973 demonstrated that there was no deterioration in the standard of play among young players. The results were:

Victoria	16	v	Western Australia	13
Victoria	23	v	South Australia (2)	11
Victoria	16	v	South Australia (1)	17

South Australian Colts were therefore champions for 1973. Annual matches between South Australia and Victoria had become a tradition, and the contest between the senior teams of those states provided an excellent match, which South Australia won by 17 goals to 16. An

equally traditional match between these two states was between Under 16 teams. On this occasion Victoria showed superiority, winning the game by 28 goals to 12.

We may state therefore that in spite of heavy preoccupation with the world series, lacrosse at the basic and traditional levels continued to provide its devotees with all the pleasures that participation in only the best of sports among the best of sportsmen can provide.

But the conduct of the world series in 1974 required much activity and attention in 1973. The fact that such an immense, pioneering project could be carried out in Australia at all is a testimony to the devotion of all lacrosse players to their game, and especially to the skill and endurance of Australian lacrosse officials at every level in every state.

The difficulties were enormous. Let us consider accommodation. It had already been decided that this should be solved by billeting. The Australian Lacrosse Council had scheduled the Australian lacrosse championships to coincide with the world series contest. This meant that accommodation must be provided for the members and officials of the international sides and two-thirds of the Australian side. Allowing 25 as a conservative estimate for each country, this means that billets must be found for some 80 people. In addition a number of association and other organisational figures would be attending. No doubt the official international representatives would reach 100. Then there would be the contingents arriving in Victoria from interstate, at least another 50. If the principle of billeting was applied the 480 open-age players would need to find accommodation for about 150 people for a fortnight.

A less extreme situation would confront all the states, for the schedule of international games allowed for games in each state. There would not be the complication of the interstate teams, but the associations in South Australia and Western Australia both had fewer members than Victoria. Even to contemplate such a thing as a world series in Australia would make the strongest heart quiver.

It was natural too, that the associations of overseas countries would need time to consider the proposals, assess their man power, calculate the costs and count up their funds before committing themselves to the venture. This meant that no real calculation as to the number of beds to be provided could be made until the overseas organisations had pledged themselves. It was not until the meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council of 17 April 1973 received a report from the International Liaison Officer in which he advised a firm acceptance from Canada and the United Kingdom gave a firm acceptance for the world series conditionally upon acceptance by the USA. Of this there was little uncertainty, but it could not have been until that date that the Australian Lacrosse Council, and the constituent states, could make a firm calculation as to the number of persons for whom they would need to provide accommodation.

Then there was the question as to the rules under which the international contests should be conducted. There is no need for a game to be played in exactly the same way everywhere, but when two teams contest against one another they must abide by the same rules. We all know that there are rules for rugby union and rugby league, but no matches are played where one team plays according to one code and the other according to another in the same match. This may also be seen in Australian rules. The Association rules vary from the Australian Football League rules. But the games are recognisably the same. In lacrosse the game had evolved from a primitive, rule-less pastime to an organised game played under strict rules in different parts of the world and around different social sub-sections. Thus we see that in the USA the rules evolved because of the position lacrosse held in the environment of universities. The players were already grown men, and the equipment was provided by the universities, as was that influential element, the spectator body.

In Canada the game had developed on club lines, involving attracting young boys to the game and then holding them in early manhood, so that local associations were formed. However, the game grew so popular that it became ripe for entrepreneurship. Canadian lacrosse became strongly professional, and professional games attracted spectators to night activities and limited the area on which the game might most profitably be played in some sort of stadium or place of entertainment. The Canadian rules developed into six-a-side contests (a form of the game originally devised in Melbourne) with little direct connection to the rules and tactics played elsewhere. Lacrosse being essentially a Canadian game, Canadian administrators were keen to support it internationally. Traditional Canadian lacrosse travelled to England, but as an amateur game. There was soon therefore little connection between amateur Englishmen and professional Canadians or Americans.

Although the game developed in Victoria through Canadian enterprise, it was through the enthusiasm of the Mount family. Dr Mount had come to Australia to practice at the Ballarat goldfields. When his son Lambton came to Melbourne in connection with his work, he interested some of his friends, many of whom, like himself, were members of the Melbourne Cricket Club, in the game. Mount's knowledge of the game would have developed during the amateur period in Canada, and the rules adopted were similar to those in use in England. Lacrosse came to South Australia through the influence of university staff recruited from England. The game was introduced into Western Australia by Victorians employed within the mines or developing business enterprises. Though there were minor differences there was a certain homogeneity in the game as played in the various Australian states. Since the contact with America, many important changes were introduced into the Australian game, but there were also differences that seemed irreconcilable.

To bring into effect a world wide competition, this matter of rules must be brought to some consensus. The university supported game in America was much the stronger of the various codes both numerically and financially. It was at first decided that the world series should be conducted according to the American code. It is doubtful if English lacrosse players would agree to play under American rules, particularly those concerning body contact, and the freedom for a player to strike his opponent with his crosse. The American rules concerning the use of reserve players would be opposed by English and Australian players. Although the Australian Lacrosse Council at first intended to conduct the contests under American rules, there was a lively opposition from the constituent states. The position was discussed in detail in a letter from Mr Doug Fox, a devotee of the game, an experienced coach, and the secretary of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association (VALA). He eloquently made the following points:

"My thesis is that the USILA rules are particularly suited the American lacrosse situation, but they are inappropriate to our Australian situation.....

Firstly consider the adoption of the poke check with the hands regarded as part of the lacrosse stick. This must involve expense. There is no worry in my mind that the poke check is dangerous, provided each player is fully equipped. The addition of making gloves part of the racquet, however, adds a virtual compulsion for all players to wear two gloves and possibly arm guards. Without these the effects of the American poke check are injurious. Therefore the cost involved in equipping players must increase under American rules.

At the present time most VALA clubs and I suspect WALA and SALA clubs assist junior players in equipping themselves with racquets.....

Financial worries become the prime element of most clubs, even with only the burden of purchasing racquets. At a minimum the American rules would require an extra \$12-\$15 per pair of gloves for each player. This represents a doubling of the minimum requirement of equipping a junior player and a considerable financial burden on clubs.

It could of course be argued that the junior players, themselves rather than the clubs, should be responsible for financing their own equipment.

If the minimum requirement was simply a racquet and a player's uniform, as is often the case at present, then this proposition might be reasonable to parents. The additional cost of gloves must begin to make the parents of a prospective recruit think a little more carefully, e.g.

Racquet	\$12
Gloves	\$12
Boots and uniform	<u>\$12</u>
	\$36 minimum requirement

Possible additional items

Helmet	\$15
Arm guards	<u>\$12</u>
	\$27

To compare an equipment outlay of \$63 per player against \$12 for a recruit with football, begins to make the point clear – rules which make extra expense necessary hinder rather than advance the promotion of our game.”

Mr Fox's long experience with recruiting juniors had revealed to him that parents invariably asked two questions: Is the game expensive? Is the game dangerous?

Up to the present, he had been able to state with a clear conscience that lacrosse was not a dangerous sport. It is stated as a cardinal rule in the Australian Lacrosse Council's rule book that under no circumstances is a player allowed to strike the body of another player. The USILA rules disregard this fundamental. A rule is introduced into a "sport" which legalises the hitting of the body of an opponent with a weapon, as distinct from the normal body contact allowed in most team sports. In view of this rule, any Australian official must admit that the sport is dangerous. The adoption of these American concepts must have an adverse effect upon the recruitment of juniors.

These considerations do not adversely effect the American situation. First of all, there is a much stonger spectator appeal, as members of colleges support their own teams, and a degree of roughness and personal danger greatly increase public appeal. The physical danger is reduced, because the full costs of uniforms and equipment, which includes protective gear, are provided by the university.

Amendments to Australian rules had already been made upon principles adopted from the American game, but these amendments had greatly increased the number of officials required to administer the game; and the VALA was already at some difficulty to provide enough referees and umpires.

Mr Fox closed his argument by emphasising that "once a sport begins to cater for the "glamour" section of its participants (those who achieve state or international representation) then the foundations upon which the sport is built become shaky".

Discussions at an international level are necessarily slow and subject to misunderstanding. At the ALC meeting of 17 April 1973 Mr Turnbull reported on his attempts to develop a set of international rules. He felt that if certain modifications were to take place, the USILA rule

book would be a suitable basis for the code under which international games could be played in 1974.

At the ALC meeting of 23 July 1973 the Australian point of view had crystallised sufficiently for a motion that passed stating "that the rules for the 1974 world series be as set out in Appendix I of these minutes, and that the WALA delegate be instructed to press for complete adoption of these rules during his forthcoming overseas tour. The matter had evidently not reached a conclusion by the end of 1973, though no doubt discussions at a vital stage had clarified the diverse points of view, and a written acceptance would follow. This all meant that the time available for acquainting referees, umpires and officials with new conceptions and interpretations was diminishing with every passing week.

Much patience and effort had been devoted to these serious aspects of the world series as affected international affairs. We must now turn our attention to the local preparations. These had to be made and co-ordinated at two levels, the ALC, and the member states, the principal among which for this event was the VALA. Thus, the VALA appointed Mr FD Hogarth to the position of world series convenor. At the annual meeting of the ALC held on 19, 20 and 21 January 1973, the WALA and the SALA had not filled the positions. At this annual meeting the ALC decided that the world series should be held from the 24 August to the 5 September 1974. The routes and times of arrival of the competing teams must now be decided. Until these decisions were firmly established such things as accommodation, use of grounds, arrangement of functions could not proceed. It was decided that the United States group should travel to Australia by such a route as would enable them to play warm-up matches in England, and pass through Perth and Adelaide on their way to the world series. The Canadians would arrive at the world series on 24 August, and then play in Adelaide and Perth after the world series. This was comparatively easy to organise for two teams, for world flights might be taken in either direction. A third team raised complications, and it was decided to make final arrangements with England after the travelling arrangements of the Americans and Canadians had been firmly settled.

Now transactions reached the personal level. It was therefore moved that a sub-committee consisting of the three state delegates, the President, the Secretary and the International Liaison Officer be formed to meet immediately to select the Australian coach and assistant to the coach for the 1974 World Series. Their choices fell upon Mr RB Ramsay (WALA Coach) and Mr FS Neill (SALA Assistant Coach). The coach in collaboration with the assistant coach should submit by 31 March 1973 a full report on his opinions and recommendations relative to team selection for the world series. The report was to be based on the submissions of the state associations already received by the ALC. Affairs were now coming to the specific men who would be charged with upholding Australia's reputation at the world series.

At the meeting of the ALC in April 1973, the dates for the world series were changed to 29 June to 11 July 1974. These alterations are inevitable the first time such an international contest is conducted. Later, when they are built into the normal fixtures of the various international organisations, they have their accepted place. But such alterations must complicate booking flights, arranging accommodation, compiling fixtures and providing suitable venues.

To return to the choosing of the actual players, it was decided (17 April 1973) that all playing squads for participation in the world series would be 25 players. Official parties should be restricted to 30 persons exclusive of a referee.

At the next meeting of the ALC (23 July 1973) it was decided that the procedure for selecting the Australian team for the world series would be:

Each state association is to select twelve players from within their state in the following categories:

- 1 goal keeper (if of sufficient standard)
- 3 defence
- 5 midfielders
- 3 attack

These players shall be selected by 30 September 1973 under advice to the Council secretary and the Australian coach and shall form a training squad to train at the instruction of the coach.

The state selectors shall maintain adequate scrutiny of the squads in their respective states, and shall add or subtract from the selected number, but maintaining at all times a squad of 12, under advice to, and agreement by the Australian coach. All changes shall be advised immediately to the Council secretary.

On or before 1 May 1974 a selection committee consisting of the coach, representing the WALA, the assistant coach, representing the SALA and a nominee to be appointed by the VALA shall select the Australian team from the training squads then current. The Victorian nominee shall be appointed by the selection committee by 30 September 1973.

The team, when selected, shall be notified by the secretary of the Council, and shall remain confidential until formally approved and announced by the Council.

This is a time consuming process, but the ALC was determined that no implication of bias in favour of any state or person could be laid against them. The same scrupulous fairness was shown in the selection of officials. Available officials should apply through the state association secretaries. A selection would then be made by the ALC committee. The ALC selection panel would consist of 5 members, 3 delegates (not under direction), the president and the secretary. Application for the position of manager and assistant manager would close with their state association secretaries on 31 December 1973. The selection would be completed no later than the February 1974 Council meeting.

The Australian Lacrosse Referees Association (ALRA) was required to arrange for the appointment of all field officials, and, in doing so, should seek nominations from all member branches of their association. The appointments were to be notified to the world series sub-committee by 30 April 1974.

Two referees would be invited from each country to attend the world series, subject to their ability being of sufficient standard. We must recognise how difficult and complicated all these processes were. And there were other responsible bodies in all the states working hard in their various areas – finance, accommodation, entertainment, transport, official functions – the list is interminable. One wonders whether the pioneers of world series lacrosse really knew what was involved. Having begun to plough their furrows, they went forward diligently and finally achieved a resounding success. In surveying the season of 1973 we see only the plans, organisation and acceptance of responsibility. The effects of all this painstaking work will be evident when we study the course of 1974.

Apparently small matters also creep into the proceedings of 1973. At the ALC annual general meeting a significant paragraph appears in the section "Alterations to playing rules" It reads: "That rule no 10.12 – Face-Off – be amended by the insertion of the words "plastic or wooden" in lieu of the word "wooden" in the fourth and seventh lines."

When we remember the immense difficulties experienced in getting suitable lacrosse sticks in the post-war years, and how the shortage nearly caused the extinction of the game, we will recall the unsuccessful attempts to substitute plastic for wood.

The early difficulties with plastic must have been overcome, and a new and revolutionary racquet emerged. This plastic implement is common-place now. There appears available documentation concerning the development and acceptance of this new racquet. However, the paragraph referred to makes it clear that the plastic racquet now received universal acceptance, and it no doubt played an important part in the 1974 world series.

An important short paragraph appears in the minutes of the 23 July 1973 meeting of the ALC. It occurs under the heading "Promotion of lacrosse in new areas". It stated "The Secretary reported on discussions with the Mr PLC Dodd concerning the introduction of lacrosse into Sydney".

This shows the ALC had never deviated from its intention to make lacrosse a truly Australia-wide game. Its perseverance was commendable. It was to be hoped that success in Sydney would at last be achieved. It seems unlikely that the ALC would have discussed the matter unless there was at least some prospect of success.

At last the time arrived. A hundred years in a human scale is a long time. Our eras are marked by centuries, and usually in afterthoughts we realise that one century is different from another. In Australia, lacrosse had lived through the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first three quarters of the twentieth. The actual events of these times are perhaps less important than the changes in moral attitudes in national and personal ambitions, in class distinction and the revolutions in the social order, such as the rise of capitalism, socialism and communism. All these tensions and relaxations, affected every aspect of life, and such organisations which survived these changes had a certain internal strength and resilience. Many sports and leisure occupations for one reason or another disappeared. Others replaced them, but a few remained active and almost unchanged throughout the period. Lacrosse, of course, had existed for many hundreds of years; but it needed a great event to emphasize the significance of the playing of lacrosse in a civilisation itself only a little older. There was more to the celebrations of 1974 than a puffing out of the chest and a vaunt that we are as good as anyone. It meant that the new antipodean civilisation had now reached a standard of excellence that made it a companion acceptable to those who were already established and had made their own contributions to the progress of mankind.

Many lacrosse administrators since the game first appeared in Australia were far-sighted men, proud of their country, and anxious to present it in a favourable light to all countries; i.e., all countries that mattered. It was fitting that the principal celebrations to mark the hundredth year of lacrosse in Australia should take place in the town and city in which it had originated.

This in itself presented problems. It had long been agreed among the states that any activities whose implications crossed state borders were the domain of the ALC. The Council must therefore accept the ultimate responsibility, and must conduct affairs for Australia with other countries. The funds available to the Council were limited. The states subscribing to the Council must therefore ultimately raise the necessary money to conduct such events as they might desire in their own states. As 1974 (It was actually 1976 when Lambton Mount advertised for people to show interest in playing lacrosse, not 1874) was the centenary of the game in Victoria, and Victoria being the main instigator, the greater amount of the finance must come from that state. Moreover, Victoria was the only state where all the international teams would be gathered together at the same time. All the states set up the various necessary committees to raise the money and make the arrangements that were their responsibility. The strain was considerable, and in other states considerable losses were made in staging matches against international teams. The loss of \$900 made by the South Australia would, the chairman of the SALA said, take a long time to recover. The loss

seems to have been at least partly due to a lukewarm enthusiasm for the project. The SALA raised most of its funds through application fees and levies from clubs. There seems to have been little enthusiasm for fund raising activities. Attendances, partly through bad weather were low, and journalist, Ray Barber, stated that "future visits from overseas teams may have to bypass Adelaide..". This could lead only to deterioration in the relative standard of South Australian teams, as their players would miss the opportunity of observing performers. However, the purpose of this study is to observe the development mainly in Victoria. Furthermore, the event of the year was to be the international championships. Watching the visiting teams individually, mainly as exhibition matches, was perhaps quite a different thing. At the same time, a shortfall of \$900 would represent only about \$1 per registered player, and the fuss seems to reveal interstate jealousies rather than real financial distress. There seems no doubt that there was disunity in Australian ranks. For instance, the coach of the team which made the triumphal tour of America and England in 1972, was not voted to the position in 1974, although he had offered himself as a candidate. Mr Terry Allington was at first left off the coaching panel, and offered the position of historian. Mr R B Ramsay of Western Australia was appointed coach, and Mr F S Neill of South Australia was appointed assistant coach. Later, Mr Ramsay retired from the position. Mr Neill became the coach and Mr Allington was appointed assistant coach (ALC correspondence: 15 October 1973, signed by Mr Clive R Carr).

The magnitude of the task of conducting the world championships is staggering, and it is little wonder that many lacrosse players in South Australia and Western Australia were alarmed at the prospect. Fortunately, they may well have thought the responsibility was with the VALA. We examine the world championships from four points of view: (a) Cost; (b) Number of people invited; (c) Entertainment; and (d) The actual games and their results. The expenditure reported in the final account on 12 June 1975 amounted to \$23,258.78. Category A Expenditure, which included various items connected to buying equipment, uniforms, printing, ground hire etc. amounted to \$5,276.11. Category B Expenditure, which included printing the commemoration book, cost of presentation dinner, rental of Royal Ballroom, preparation of media coverage etc., cost of hiring the Olympia Room and the trip to Sovereign Hill amounted to \$12,461.94. This amounted to a total expenditure of \$40,996.83 (figures taken from Income & Expenditure / Balance Sheet, presented to the ALC, Adelaide 7/8 February 1975).

These figures seem too large for either the ALC or the VALA to contemplate. They were of course, considerable sums, met by individual people, such as those generous folk who provided billeting. If we may draw no other lesson from this summary of expenditure, it is that world championships are not to be undertaken lightly.

To estimate the number of people for whom billets must be found, we may record the names of the members of the international parties.

The United States Touring Party consisted of:

Officials

1	Thomas R Hayes	Chief of Delegation
2	Joseph B Harlan	Team Manager
3	William Rich	Administration Aid
4	John Phillip	Administration Aid
5	Bud Beardmore	Head Coach
6	Jack E Emmer	Assistant Coach
7	Jack Kaley	Assistant Coach
8	Jim Edmonds	Press Liaison
9	Bob McDonald	Assistant Press Liaison
10	Bob Montgomery	Assistant Manager
11	Jamie Harb	Assistant Manager

Players

12	Bruce Arena	25	Ed Hangevich
13	Richard Arena	26	Richard Kowalchuck
14	Theodore Bauer	27	Stanley Kowalchuck
15	Bruce Cohen	28	Stanley Lowe
16	Peter Coy	29	Mike Maldvogel
17	Tom Duquette	30	Pat O'Meally
18	Ron Fraser	31	Tom Postel
19	James Potter	32	Robert Rule
20	Sterling Chadwick	33	Steve Schroeder
21	Robert Shaw	34	Larry Story
22	Mike Thearle	35	Jack Thomas
23	James Trenz	36	Frank Urso
24	Richard Werner	37	Doug Shrieber

Supporters

38	Margaret Beardmore	47	Temple Grassi
39	Phyliss Beardmore	48	Allen Hayes
40	Tory Harlan	49	John Curran
41	Gretchen Hayes	50	Robert DeMarco
42	Doris Emmer	51	Stephen Wood
43	Dot Thearle	52	John Mitchell
44	Kathy Edmunds	53	Ina Kowalski
45	Laurel Speilmen	54	Josephine Coy
46	Sally Phillips		

The English Touring Party consisted of:

Officials, Players & Supporters

1	C David Walkdon	Manager
2	F Michael McClinton	Assistant Manager
3	Nigel J Wayne	Coach
4	George A Anderson	Referee
5	Dr Garry Macdonald	Referee
6	Richard Ackinson	
7	Clive Beaumont	
8	Frank Bedford	22 John Blake
9	Eric Broadhurst	23 Ian Currday
10	Ben Daines	24 Peter Edmonson
11	Fred Fletcher	25 Ian Gare
12	David Gaskell	26 Roy Higson
13	Graham Lester	27 Peter McCulloch
14	Michael Newton	28 Gerry Paine
15	Chris Parker	29 Phillip Ria
16	Michael Roberts	30 Derek Scotton
17	Graeme Simpson	31 Dale Thomas
18	Stephen Weaver	32 Vaughan Wilcox
19	John Wofenden	33 Richard Griffiths
20	Michael Hodgson	34 John Parker
21	Paul Smith	35 Peter Trainer

No detailed list of the Canadian contingent is available, but it contained at least the following, they being the guest list of the state reception.

1	W H Hall	2	J Bishop
3	D Lough	4	G Hammond

5	J Fulton	6	G Harrison
7	S Chapman	8	D Hayes
9	J Hinkson	10	C Collins
11	D Easum	12	J Aitchison
13	D Durante	14	W Goss
15	J Giles	16	B Tasker
17	R Dillon	18	A Lethwaite
19	D Wilfong	20	D Mackenzie
21	K Henderson	22	P Parnell
23	W Rawson	24	I Thompson
25	L Aston	26	M Winzoski
27	M French		

Australian Lacrosse Team - 1974 World Championship

Played in Melbourne



Back Row: I. Toy, K. Maynard, J. Carter, G. Garnsworthy, A. Rolley, R. Cordell, G. Kennedy, G. Fox, B. Griffin, A. Salmon, W. Hobbs, E. Jones, N. Speck, M. Raggatt, J. Butkiewicz, P. Collett, R. Attenborough
 Centre Row: J. Walker (Trainer), T. Allington (Ass.Coach), W. Stubbs (V. Capt), D. Fox (Capt), F. Neill (Coach), J. Mitchell (Ass. Mngr), F. Durham (Manager), G. Treloar, B. Thompson
 Front Row: J. Kelly, R. Swadling, L. Vandepeer, R. Scott, R. Twomey, K. Daly

John Butkiewicz was a late inclusion to the team, replacing Warren Hobbs, who was injured, and Andy Salmon replaced Keith Maynard (WA) who was also injured.

Of these all except the twelve Victorians would need to be provided with billets, i.e. 184 Victorians would undertake the responsibility of providing board, lodging, local transport and some entertainment for overseas or interstate guests,

Then there were "occasional" billets to be found. At the VALA world series committee meeting (27 March 1974) support was given to the ALC proposal to invite three representatives from each state, and ACT, NSW, Queensland and Tasmania to attend the carnival. Billets would need to be provided for another 12 persons. At this meeting the generosity of Victorian lacrosseurs, and their determination to make the world

championships a memorable event was demonstrated. The Williamstown Lacrosse Club undertook to provide billets for the whole Canadian contingent of 31 people. The problem was far from solved. At the meeting of the VALA world series committee (8 May 1974) it was announced that 110 offers of accommodation had been received, a further 60 offers were still required. At the meeting of 5 June the position regarding billeting was:

- Canada – fully covered
- England – fully covered
- USA – 45 definite, 9 required
- Interstate referees – 4 required

Time was running out. The next committee meeting would be held at 7.30pm on the 21st June. At this meeting it was announced that all billeting commitments had been fully resolved. A vote of thanks was offered to liaison officers Messrs Hillsberg, Read and Inglis for assisting the billeting committee in the completion of accommodation requirements.

The Commonwealth and state governments saw the advantages internationally of world championships. There would be citizens from three of the major English speaking communities, many of them men of high reputation. They therefore made a grant of \$5,000 to enable the Australian Lacrosse Council to organise the world series (Sun 19 February 1974). The state government accepted the request of the VALA to provide a state reception for all the players and officials of the four teams. This they did in regal fashion, the reception taking place on 1 July 1974 at 5.00pm at the Melbourne Room of the State Government Offices. The guests were received by the Honourable LHS Thomson, MLR, Acting Premier, assisted by Mr Henry Volk, President ALC. Refreshments were then served and when one reads the complete guest list, one may realise the magnitude of the task set to the Government caterers.

At 5.45pm Mr Thompson welcomed the guests on behalf of the Premier of Victoria. Mr Gordon Hammond, President of the Canadian Lacrosse Association responded on behalf of guests. He was supported by Mr Henry Volk, President of the ALC. Mr Thomas Hayes, Chief of the Delegation, USA presented a plaque to the Acting Premier. It would agreeable to provide the full guest list, but it is long, and numbers shall suffice. Among the guests were 33 from USA, 30 from England, 27 from Canada, and 30 from Australia. In addition there were 47 various guests and members of Parliament, officials of the organising sub-committee, and members of the referee's panel. It was a great occasion, worthily setting a tone for the world championships and the publicity which was their due.

There were other social events of importance arranged as part of the celebrations for the world championships. The ALC arranged a presentation dinner and dance, at the Royal Ballroom at the Exhibition Buildings. Among the trophies was the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse Shield, presented to the USA team as winners of the world championships; Mr Jack Thomas of the USA team received the best and fairest award.

Other entertainment included a trip to Sovereign Hill at Ballarat. An entertainment for the USA team was held at the Swagman licensed restaurant at Ferntree Gully. The Melbourne Cricket Club lacrosse section in conjunction with Surrey Park Lacrosse Club held a cocktail party in the MCC members dining room at which the guests of honour were the visiting English and Australian teams and their officials. The Williamstown Lacrosse Club assisted by Footscray and Altona Lacrosse Clubs provided entertainment for the Canadian representatives. The Malvern and Caulfield Lacrosse Clubs undertook the entertainment of the contingent from the USA. No effort was spared to ensure that the overseas representatives, apart from the actual games, for there must be winners and losers, took home with them the happiest memories of their visit to Australia. But, of course, social

entertainment was a minor purpose in conducting the world championships. The play as ever is the thing.

The visiting teams, especially the Canadians had asked for opportunities to practice and to play full scale informal games against adequate opponents and conducted by skilful referees so that they might accustom themselves to the international rules as drawn up by the ALC. It must be remembered that their experience was with six-a-side rules. The VALA 1974 world series committee therefore arranged for Caulfield, Chadstone, Malvern, Williamstown and the No1 oval at Fawkner Park be available.

The final program of events as set out in the players' diary was:

Saturday, 22 June:	Australian team assembles in Melbourne
Sunday, 23 June	Canadian team arrives
Monday, 24 June	Free day
Tuesday, 25 June	Canada v composite team, Williamstown
Wednesday, 26 June	Free day, USA team arrives
Thursday, 27 June	USA v Victoria at Melbourne University
Friday, 28 June	Free day
Saturday, 29 June	Meeting world series coaches and referees at Albert Ground
Sunday, 30 June	World championships, Olympic Park, opening ceremony USA 24 v England 10 Australia 14 v Canada 18 Informal buffet dinner for world championship participants, Olympic Room, Olympic Park.
Monday, 1 July	Free day (Suggested private visit to Healesville Wild Life Sanctuary) State reception for world championship teams and officials, Melbourne Room, Premiers Office, Treasury Place 5.00pm.
Tuesday, 2 July	World championships, Olympic Park England v Victoria 11.30am USA 26 v Canada 15 2.00pm Team entertainment by various Melbourne clubs
Wednesday, 3 July	Australian championship, Albert Ground Western Australia v South Australia, juniors 11.30am Western Australia v South Australia, seniors 2.00pm
Thursday, 4 July	World championship, Olympic Park Victoria v Canada, 11.30am England 3 v Australia 15 2.00pm
Friday, 5 July	Trip to Sovereign Hill, Ballarat (casual dress) Coaches depart Williamstown 9.00am Box lacrosse exhibition, Williamstown 7.30pm
Saturday, 6 July	Australian championship, Albert Ground Victoria v losers of WA v SA, juniors 11.30am Victoria v losers of WA v SA, seniors 2.00pm
Sunday, 7 July	Australian championship Victoria v winners of WA v SA, juniors 11.30am Victoria v winners of WA v SA, seniors 2.00pm Presentation dinner (team uniform or lounge suit), Royal Ballroom, Exhibition Buildings 7.00pm
Tuesday, 9 July	World Championships, Olympic Park England v President's team

Note the balance of the program is missing

After the triumphant Australian tour of 1972 many Australians were confident that Australia would win the world championships. A minority who had seen the Americans and Canadians play were less sanguine. They realised that if Australia was to win the ultimate distinction of champions of the world, they would need to develop the highest degree of team-work, skill, stamina and dedication. It is quite clear from the report of the assistant coach, Mr Terry Allington, that the preparation of the Australian team produced few of these qualities. The following extracts from his report will demonstrate the allegation.

“...First and foremost, whether we like it or not, if we desire to play in this league, we have to alter our thinking. This opposition are ruthless, determined, and completely dedicated to achieving success.

There were quite a few American players who weren't impressed with their coach, but you wouldn't know it when you saw them practice. He cracked the whip and they jumped. So:

Point No1: we need not only a knowledgeable coach, but also a strong one, and an experienced one.

Point No 2: In all things, sport and business, communication is vital. Regrettably, it was non existent, and I feel that this was the vital factor in the animosity of many players. They were frustrated waiting for a lead.

Point No 3:Injured Players. It was a disgrace to have at least 3 players, with no hope of being fit, join the team. This was the other vital factor, which caused a lot of animosity. It ruined, psychologically, any chance we had.

Point No 4:Discipline. The poor discipline of the side actually had its beginning in WA in March, when 2 prominent players indicated to Fred Neill that they didn't want to be billeted. Fred's idea initially of a fortnight together was good in theory, but the time and cost factor made it impossible. The Chevron was not a serious option for reasons outlined at the ALC meeting. Players did as they liked. When the new chums in the team observed what was going on, it certainly didn't help their morale. Even so, it still wasn't too late to recover the situation if our practice sessions had been utilised in the best possible manner to evaluate all the players in different set-ups.

Australia was in the worst position of all the 4 teams as the opposition had the opportunity to practice and travel together beforehand, whereas we had only one week to put them all together. All the more reason that players should have been evaluated more thoroughly.

In the match against Canada we were very fortunate the referee did not penalise our side for the remarks and language that came from our bench area was disgraceful. Our players were roasted, the referees came under fire, and all in all it was a poor reflection on our sportsmanship and image. Never before was there seen to be such animosity between the states as was the case in this team. It is little wonder that the victorious team of 1972 had become the rabble that was rated second by a few percentage points, but was in fact lucky not to come last.

The description of the games written for “The Lacrosse Annual” gives the best account of the play:

“United States lacrosse reached an all time high in performance when the United States team won the world lacrosse championships at Olympic Park, Melbourne, Australia from 30 June through 7 July 1974. A well disciplined, finely coached squad of Americans under head coach Bud Beardmore, and assistant coaches Jack Emmer and Jack Kaley, were undefeated during the tournament. The other competing nations, Australia, Canada and England had identical won-lost tournament records. Each team won one game and lost two.

The opening games on Sunday 30 June matched the United States against England, and Canada against Australia. The regulation playing time of a game was 100 minutes, divided into four periods of 25 minutes each.

The United States started fast against England and wasted little time in getting on the score-board. At half time the United States led 15-4. The Yankees coasted to a 24-10 victory in the second half. Pat O'Meally led all scorers with four goals. Bruce Cohen, Alan Lowe, and Frank Urso each netted three goals, and Tom Postel made two goals to lead the Yanks.

The second game on the opening day resulted in a mild surprise, as Canada upset the Australians 18-14. The Aussies led 12-10 after two periods of play, but during the second half the Aussie attack fizzled for only two goals while the Canadians scored eight times to win 18-14.

The United States and Canada crossed sticks on Tuesday, 2 July. Once again the well drilled American stickmen started fast and kept the pressure on their opponents. At half time the United States led 15-3.

The Canadians outscored the Yanks during the third period to reduce the margin to 17-8. In the final 25 minutes of play, the United States offensive unit went into high gear, scored 9 goals to 6 for the Canadians. The final score United States 26, Canada 15. Pat O'Meally led all the scorers with 9 goals. Frank Urso made 4 goals and Bruce Cohen chipped in with 3 scores. Bruce Arena, Tom Postel and Jack Thomas each netted 2 goals for the United States. Parnell was the high man for Canada with 4 goals.

During the rough contest Jim Potter of the United States received a nasty gash over and below his right eye. Mike Sheahan, sports write for the "Melbourne Age" newspaper termed it "the game's vigorous stick swinging". Potter was stretched out on the field while Dr. MacDonald, team physician for England, completed the hasty job that required three stitches. When Dr. MacDonald finished the stitching operation, the strong, tough, Jim Potter put on his helmet and gloves and returned to action.

Thursday, 4 July, Australia easily downed England 15-3. Brian Griffin and Mike Raggatt each scored 4 goals to lead the Aussie attack.

The concluding game of the Championships matched Australia against the United States. Despite rain and wet turf it was the most interesting game of the tournament. The Australians realised they needed a strong defensive effort if they were to have any chance against the United States team that averaged 25 goals a game against England and Canada. On the defence the Aussies were alert, led by goalie Doug Fox and Ian Toy defence. Fox was in great form, protecting the Aussie defensive goal as he turned back shot after shot fired by the American stickmen.

Brian Griffin scored the opening goal on a pass from Attenborough to put the Australians in the lead. The Yanks tied the count as Tom Postel spotted Jack Thomas eluding his check, and Tom pin-pointed a pass to Thomas for the Yanks first goal. The combo Stubbs to Raggatt gave the home country a 2-1 lead. Thomas scored 2 goals to put the United States in the lead, his third goal coming from a nice pass from Tom Duquette. Thirty seconds later the game was tied for the third time, when Griffin made a timely pass to Butkiewicz.

The United States regained the lead when Alan Lowe evaded his check and passed to Jim Potter for the Yank's fourth goal. Butkiewicz was controlling most of the face-offs for the Australians, and goalie Doug Fox making save after save inspired his offensive team mates who outplayed the United States during the first half and led 12-7.

The final half of the game was a different picture. The United States defence checked every move of the Aussie's offence, and at the other end of the field the Yank's attack was aggressive and quick. Frank Urso scored a goal, but it was disallowed for a crease infringement. The United States team, working as a unit was determined. The Yanks continued to maintain possession and ball control, and the constant bombardment by the USA attack eventually wore down the outstanding play of Aussie goalie Doug Fox. Bruce Cohen, Tom Postel, Doug Schrieber each scored to narrow the lead. The Aussies blanked during the third period, saw their five goal lead reduced to one, 12-11, after three quarters of play.

Early in the final quarter, using an extra man play to good effect, the Australians scored their 13th goal, Raggatt to Butkiewicz. 22 minutes remained of the game when the United States really opened its offensive power. First, Bruce Cohen evaded his check to score, then Jack Thomas followed with a long ground shot that skidded on the wet turf and hit the net to even the count 13-13.

Rick Kowalchuck, as he did so often in his final season at Johns Hopkins, headed goalwards, switched hands on his stick and ripped a hard shot that put the United States ahead, Next Maryland's Frank Urso on a quick dodge fired a shot to make the count 15-13 in favour of the red, white and blue.

The Yanks continued to put pressure on the Aussies in the rain. Bruce Cohen scored again, and Ron Fraser added another goal. Cornell's Bruce Arena netted a goal on a neat play. Shortly thereafter Ron Twomey scored for the Aussies, but Frank Urso added an insurance goal 30 seconds later for the United States. The Urso goal was the final goal of the championship. The final score was USA 20 d Australia 14.

In the match England vs Canada (3 v4) England 19 d Canada 11.

Jack Thomas was the top scorer for the United States with five goals, followed by Bruce Cohen's four points, and three goals to Frank Urso. Rich Kowalchuck hit the net for two tallies, and single goals were scored by Jim Potter, Tom Postel, Doug Schrieber, Bruce Arena, Tom Duquette, and Ron Frazer. Brian Griffin was high man for the Australians with four points and Rod Scott scored three times.

Don Hobbs, of the Australian Lacrosse Council, played a major part in the success of the international tournament stated that the United States deserved the championship, winning all three matches under varying conditions, and showed that the United States was out in front in their application to the skills of the game.

To quote Mr Don Hobbs, "In particular, as an Australian, I was impressed by the dexterity and flexibility in the use of the stick in one hand, either right or left and catching and dodging and in picking up off the ground. We older players in Australia, have frowned on taking one hand off the stick but we can see now

that it gives much greater reach and much greater variety to the players capabilities once he has learnt control.”

Mr Don Hobbs also mentioned, quote, “Many of the body defensive checking methods used by the US were new to us and in particular the overhead stick check on many occasions took our middies and forwards by complete surprise. It was skilfully executed in the manner in which the US defence player could achieve his stick check without whacking the body.”

The Lacrosse Newsletter contacted coaches of the United States team concerning the play of the US players. We talked long-distance to head coach Bud Beardmore, assistant coach Jack Kaley, and Tom Hayes, chairman of the USILTA International Committee. I asked who stood out for the United States and after speaking to the staff I reached the following conclusion. “It was a team effort working as a unit. All the players were great,” said coaches Beardmore and Kaley.

Jack Thomas (United States) received the best and fairest award, the equivalent of the most valuable player award in the United States. We understand several other United States players were under consideration for the award, but Jack’s great leadership and all-round play earned him top award.

Don Hobbs mentioned that the championships were a wonderful success, notably in the general agreement reached by all countries for a standard set of rules which was agreed on Monday, 8 July 1974. It was also agreed by all countries for the next championships to be held in Manchester, England, during September/October, 1978.

For the ultimate success of the Championships did not lie in the scores of the games or the performances of nations. In the 1974 world championships the final results were:

	W	L	D	Pts	
United States of America	3	0	0	12	
Australia	1	2	0	4	104.75%
Canada	1	2	0	4	74.33%
England	1	2	0	4	64%

Among the success of any international competition is the co-operation and mutual respect of the administrators of the game. Individual friendships and contacts are formed, but they tend to fade as the years go by. Administrations live on, and their attempts to bring about international competitions arouse more permanent bonds. Lacrosse was becoming the only major sport to honour the amateur ideal. The “Lacrosse Annual”, 1974 expressed it thus: “A crowd of 10,000 enjoyed the match between Maryland and Johns Hopkins. Big lacrosse games are generally exciting. Maybe it’s the amateur atmosphere, and the fact that the athletes are playing for the love of the game, and not for a pension.”

Not the smallest of the successes of the international championships was the meeting of representatives from the four competing nations to form the International Lacrosse Federation, complete with constitution, office bearers and a set of international playing rules.

Great as the world championships were, and costly in money and manpower, the actual games occupied only a fortnight of the season. For the rest, those activities which provide its life and vigour went on. The domestic home and away competition which is the enthusiasm and activity of club members continued.

This was all due to the competition having been efficiently conducted and strongly supported. The Australian championships for seniors and juniors were conducted in Melbourne at the same time as the international tournament. An interesting variation demonstrated the perpetual hope that lacrosse would become a truly Australian sport, each state taking full participation.

There were reports of renewed interest in lacrosse in Tasmania. No doubt the ghost of redoubtable Captain Fearon still walked. As a consequence the Australian Lacrosse Council, the South Australian Lacrosse Association and the Victorian Lacrosse Association arranged that what was expected to be the key match of the Australian championships, Victoria vs. South Australia should be played as an exhibition match in Hobart.

The Australian championships provided close matches, the results being:

South Australia	15	d	Western Australia	14
Victoria	17	drew	Western Australia	17
Victoria	15	d	South Australia	1

The interstate junior (U.16) carnival was played at the same time as the Australian championships. The results were:

South Australia	21	d	Western Australia	11
Victoria	14	d	Western Australia	8
South Australia	16	d	Victoria	10

Thus the carnival was won by South Australia.

The 1974 season ended successfully. Many developments at the International level gave promise of a wider spread of the game. It seemed likely that the patience and encouragement of the Australian Lacrosse Council would succeed in establishing the game as an Australian wide sport. Numbers of active players were gradually increasing. It is interesting to contemplate if Lambton Mount and his handful of friends would have expected this development over the next hundred years.

It is amazing after all the frantic preparations, and heavy responsibilities of conducting the world championships of 1974, that the Victorian Lacrosse Association found time and energy enough to carry out a full season in 1975, yet business was conducted as usual.

The domestic premiership competition was played between 76 teams, 27 of which were in the open age group, and 49 in the under age sections. The season began on the 25 April and concluded on the 23 August. The new rules imposed more and more duties on officials; for example, two referees were now required for each match, time-keeping had become more sophisticated and marking out of playing fields more complicated.

The normal program of interstate matches was successfully carried out. The Under 19 (Colts) championship was played in Perth in July. The Western Australian Lacrosse Association was confident of winning. Unfortunately, the generous hosts were disappointed. The games were close and of excellent quality, the final scores being:

South Australia	23	d	Victoria	19
Western Australia	13	d	Victoria	11
South Australia	23	d	Western Australia	9

The best and fairest player nominated for the series was Paul Lynch of South Australia.

The traditional game between South Australia and Victoria provided considerable interest. The Australian Lacrosse Council had reports that there was a strong possibility of reviving the game in Tasmania. They therefore supported the proposal to play the game in Hobart. Thus South Australian and Victorian teams travelled south. The conditions were uncomfortably wet, and the ground was very slippery. Nevertheless, an excellent game was presented to Hobart spectators, ending in a draw 17 all.

Regrettably the weather for the matches between South Australia and Victoria was very poor. This adversely affected the number of spectators. All other sports in Hobart were cancelled for that day. However, the game was broadcast live by ABC TV, throughout Tasmania, and replayed later on mainland stations. So the object of the exercise, to give publicity to the game of lacrosse, was to some degree met. In his report for 1976, Mr Chiron, Publicity Officer, stated that staging the games between South Australia and Victoria had been a worthwhile exercise, and that as a direct result, lacrosse was moving in both Hobart and Launceston.

The year 1975 was designated as an International Women's Year. The ladies association now consisted of 15 teams. They played interstate matches between Victoria and South Australia. When the Victorian men's team visited Hobart in 1975, the women's association also sent a team to play South Australia, thus adding a further attraction to the event. The program contained a short explanation of the principal rules of the game. The men played according to the latest rules accepted by the International Lacrosse Federation, which used 10 players on the ground, and 6 reserves. The ladies retained 12 players and played according to the old English and Australian rules as they had been before the visit to America. The teams and results were:

MEN'S			
<u>Victoria</u>		<u>South Australia</u>	
Doug	Fox	Graham	Hobbs
Alan	Bower	Barry	Thompson
Graeme	Fox	Wayne	Sutton
Michael	Orr	Nigel	Hudson
Otto	Middelhuis	John	Cluse
Keith	Daly (Co-capt)	Warren	Hobbs
Graham	Ross	Don	Wright
Alan	Rolley	Ray	Duthie
John	Butkiewicz	John	Carter
Ron	Twomey	Alan	Frederick
Bill	Stahmer (Co-capt)	Evan	Jones
Geoff	Spicer	Noel	Speck
Geoff	Kelly	Roger	Attenborough
Graham	Antrim	Michael	Raggatt
Peter	Stiglich	Bruce	Benger
Doug	Carter	Peter	Hobbs
Phil	Humphreys (Coach)	Fred	Neill (Coach)
Ted	Clayfield (Manager)	Jim	Goodale (Manager)
Joy	Clayfield (Trainer)		

The game ended in a draw, 17 goals each, Victoria thus retaining the title.

WOMEN'S

<u>Victoria</u>		<u>South Australia</u>	
Val	Orr	Judy	Window
Barbara	Cheevers	Pam	Chambers
Heather	Bassett	Helen	Donaghay
Diana	Cornwall	Jaine	Flavel
Marie	Fitzpatrick	Julia	Forest
Elaine	Mathews	Anne	Gorman
Gay	Meyer	Mary	Herbert
Jane	Moree	Diane	Hoban
Elizabeth	Muhleissen	Noni	McMichael
Francis	Pepper	Rae	Martin
Leonie	Parker	Christine	Meredith
Mary	Sephang	Helen	Rogers
Marie	Weatherill	Robin	Wilkins
Helen	Davies (Coach)	Pam	Withers
Margaret	Cleggett (Manageress)	Barbara	Matson (Coach)
		June	Oliphant (Manageress)

The game was won by South Australia 8 goals to 3.

A side-effect of the celebrations for Women's Year was the proposal by Melbourne City Council to spend \$500,000 on improving Royal Park. It is true that the improvements were mainly directed towards women's activities, but anything that would make a rather dull area of parkland more attractive, would benefit all. Facilities would be provided for netball, hockey, lacrosse, athletics and softball. A tree planting scheme would be undertaken to reduce the power of the wind, which, as Melburnians know, can be severe in areas north of the Yarra. Although the improvements would provide little direct benefit to Victorian lacrosse, the scheme showed that public bodies, such as the Melbourne City Council were beginning to realise the importance of sporting activities for the welfare of its citizens.

The movement was not restricted to the Melbourne City Council. The Federal Government had undertaken to sponsor a three-day coaching conference in May. All major sporting bodies were invited to send their three best coaches, and two leading international coaches would attend. This was not designed for the benefit of any particular sport or game, but to examine the basic principles of coaching generally. The dates suggested 29-31 May, and the venue Monash University. This again showed the increasing realisation on the part of governments and councils, of the importance of well conducted sporting activities under their jurisdiction.

The welfare of any sporting association lies in its own hands. Government encouragement is very welcome, but each sport must carry out such prospects as it may derive for the propagation of its own sport. To this end the Victorian Lacrosse Association devised its regular activity of the month. In May 1975, the activity was carried out on the field of Malvern Grammar School, Willoby Avenue, Glen Iris. An invitation was given to all, a brochure was printed, to visit the school, see how the game was played, and even take part in a game. Matches lasting 15 minutes were to be played every quarter of an hour. No report is available as to the success of the venture, but it shows that the lacrosse association was still purposeful in its attempts to attract young people to the game.

The Australian Lacrosse Council had committed itself to sending an Australian team overseas to play matches in England, Canada and the United States of America in 1976. Preparations for this tour were made in 1975. Selecting an international team is a difficult process. The selectors can choose only from those able and willing to make the tour. Thus the touring side is considerably inferior to the best side that could be chosen if the contest is at home. In addition, fair representation must be given to all states.

To ensure that the best team was chosen from those who had offered to make the trip, the state selectors made a report on those available from their states. The report stated their views as to the relevant capacity, character and temperament of the candidates with a classification A-D as to their suitability, ranging from "very good forward, top state standard" to "not up to standard" and "past prime" to "health and fitness suspect".

The selected team consisted of:

Jones (SA)	Hobbs (SA)	Cann (WA)
Kennedy (WA)	Hudson (SA)	Sutton (SA)
Bower (Vic)	Salmon (SA)	Raggatt (SA)
Garnsworthy (Vic)	Carter (Vic)	Lynch (SA)
Hilsberg (Vic)	Joy (Vic)	Spicer (Vic)
Downsborough (WA)	Tillotson (Vic)	Scott (WA)
Frederick (SA)	Balinski (WA)	Tomlin (SA)
Speck (SA)	Twomey (Vic)	Duthy (SA)
Butkiewicz (Vic)	Turnbull (WA)	

The 1976 season saw much take place, the preparations for which were made in 1975. 1976 was the beginning of annual senior championships, with 1976 being held in Adelaide.

Raising funds for the overseas tour was the major pre-occupation of the Australian Lacrosse Council, and many of the selected players. Australian sport was entering an expensive era, that of sponsorship. Sponsors of any consequence are interested only in activities that draw large numbers of spectators or a wide television audience. Such sports are lavishly paid, though the payer of the piper demands a large say in the playing of the tune. Lacrosse a game strictly for amateurs in Australia benefited little from sponsorship. The greatest crowd they could expect to assemble was about 1,000 at an interstate match or an A grade grand final. Such an amount of publicity could attract only minor sponsors. There is no evidence of any association trying to exploit this source of revenue, no doubt because the administration knew that they did not have enough to offer.

Sponsorship might make the big sports bigger. The result of the extravagant sponsorship of many league football clubs was to enable them to make prodigal inducements to players, but did little to improve conditions for spectators. The effect of generous sponsorships was to break down local loyalties, and to make clubs coteries of dissociated people, and teams an assemblage of assorted players from all over the Commonwealth. It is perhaps fortunate that the VLA did not pursue sponsorships, for they managed to keep lacrosse essentially a club game, giving a service to its own localities.

A second development of this era was the subsidising of sports by governments. This was unlikely to help smaller organisations. Government generosity is governed by voting power rather than by altruism. In 1976 the VLA was granted \$1,570 from the Minister of Youth, Sport and Education. On the strength of this, they anticipated considerable help from the Commonwealth to help defray the expenses of the overseas tour. As well they might, for the team would visit England, Canada and the United States, and their presence would bring Australia into international prominence. It should be remembered that, especially in the United States, lacrosse was a major sport, and Australia would receive wide publicity, making openings, perhaps for astute entrepreneurs, to establish new business contacts and enterprises. Unfortunately, a federal election took place at that time. The Liberal Party came into power, and refused to help Australian lacrosse. This threw the responsibility for financing the tour on the individuals who would participate. The team chosen consisted

mainly of young men, the average age being 22 years. Many would not yet have started their careers, and few would have any considerable amount saved.

Bob Snyder of the Syracuse Herald-Journal had this to say:

"We've all had to bite the bullet in times of economic stress. And that certainly goes for the Australian national lacrosse team in Syracuse for Friday night's face-off against the National College Amateur Association division king Cortland State under the lights on Syracuse University's Coyne Field.

Take for example the Aussie player who was a garbage collector in the morning, a demolition man in the afternoon.....or the stickwelder who sold his port wine collection...or the one who stopped smoking. The latter didn't stop puffing because his doctor advised it. Nor was it a desire to get up and down the field quicker. All the Aussies did what they had to do in order to take part in the team's nine game United States tour, which ends tomorrow.

We've heard that we were to receive a 50% subsidy, said 44 year old coach, Joe Forrester, a production manager for a refrigeration company in Australia. "But because of the economic situation, and change of government we got bad news 4-5 weeks before leaving for the States, not a cracker, not even a crumb". So the Aussies were staring a financial headache in the face. "Our air fare, \$2,100 in US money, that, plus personal expenses is all coming out-of-pocket, said Forrester," but lacrosse in Australia is one of the most amateur sports we have. Its far down the list of popularity. Our best crowds would be 1,000 or 2,000 when South Australia play Victoria. Lacrosse in our country is a sport played by club teams...we have only 2 college graduates on our team. And it's a young team, averaging 22 years of age."

The result was that the touring team was by no means the strongest team Australia could have produced. At the end of the Australian Lacrosse Council's Australian championships held in Adelaide the following All-Australian team was selected:

The selected team consisted of:

T Ambler (WA)	E Jones (SA)	J Bellarine (WA)
D Joy (Vic)	B Bengier (SA)	P Lynch (SA)
P Clisby (SA)	M Raggatt (SA)	P Collett (SA)
P Stiglich (Vic)	K Daly (Vic)	B Thompson (SA)
R Duthy (SA)	H Turnbull (WA)	G Hobbs (SA)
B Griffin (WA)	D Wright (WA)	R Twomey (Vic) Co-Capt
Coach: R Attenborough (SA)		

The overseas team for 1976 consisted of:

M Balinski (WA)	W Hobbs (SA)	A Bower (Vic)
N Hudson (SA)	J Butkiewicz (Vic)	D Joy (Vic)
P Cann (WA)	G Kennedy (WA)	D Carter (Vic)
J Kelly (Vic)	A Frederick (SA)	P Lynch (SA)
G Garnsworthy (Vic)	G Spicer (Vic)	M Hillsberg (Vic)
W Stahmer (Vic)	G Tillotson (Vic)	J Tomlin (SA)
L Vandepeer (SA)	E. Jones (SA)	J. Kennedy (WA)
R Duthy (SA) Co-Capt	R Twomey (Vic) Co-Capt	

Officials:

EJP Clayfield, Team Director

JL Forrester, Coach

FJ Poat, Assistant Coach

A Chiron, Manager

Mrs J Clayfield, Physiotherapist

It will be noted that only six of the team chosen from the championships were included in the touring team

The Australian team made an excellent impression on the American public generally, and particularly the hosts who billeted them, as can be inferred from an article by John Hughes in the Washington and Lee University paper, 1 April 1976.

"They came, they saw, they were conquered. But they also conquered the hearts of all those who came in contact with them, those Australians who invaded the Lexington area last week.

When Washington and Lee lacrosse coach, Jack Emmer, issued a call for volunteers to billet the Australians, my wife and I at first hesitated, then decided it might be a lark. And we figured the kids would enjoy these people who talk funny and come from the land of kangaroos, wombats, koala bears, duck-billed platypuses, and eucalyptus trees.

Attempts to line up the visiting Australians (23 players) plus 35 other assorted wives, girl friends and team supporters with compatible billets was largely haphazard, since little was known about the visitors before their arrival, except a couple of names. One billeting couple, and W&L student and his working wife, were on a very limited budget. When the team roster revealed they had the biggest of the Aussies (14 and a quarter stone, or over 200 pounds), they asked for a smaller Aussie, fearful their first one would eat them out of house and home. The second one didn't eat much but on the last night he consumed over two six packs of his host's beer. So much for the budget.

When over, one billeting Lexington ran into another one, inevitably the opening line of conversation would be: "Have you met my Aussie?" The billets spent considerable time comparing their Aussies and their oft times strange eating habits, and no doubt the Aussies did the same when they weren't with their billets. Besides such pleasurable pursuits as chasing girls (which is pretty universal), the Aussies apparently have two great loves – beer and beef steak – and they consume both in great quantities at home. Our Aussies told us a good steak dinner in Australia costs \$1.50 - \$2.50. I figured Australians would not come to America and drink Australian beer, so I stocked up on American beer. I was wrong. It was a land-office business at one grocery store and a popular restaurant and "bistro" that had the foresight to stock up on a favourite Australian beer.

W&L won Friday's game, but it was the Australians and their billets who celebrated. Renditions of "Waltzing Matilda" and "Hooray for Clyde, he's a horse's head" flowed freely and often at several local bistros far into Saturday morning.

Later that morning the Australians left on two chartered buses to continue their tour into the Baltimore area. From some of the farewell embraces and tear filled eyes present the exchange souvenirs and snapshots, you would swear that those departing were life-long friends, and not just some foreign stranger who was here only for three short days.

The Australians got little or no outside help on their expenses, and most of them used up savings and borrowed money on the trip, which cost each of them several thousand dollars. One of my Aussies, a college senior, had borrowed \$500 and probably will get so far behind in his studies he won't graduate this year. But he

wasn't particularly concerned, because he said he could always delay his graduation, but this trip was a once-in-a-life-time venture.

If and when there is a return trip to Australia, we might seriously consider hocking the family jewels to go along as a team supporter. After all, we Americans have also been known to consume a beer or a beef steak or two."

It will be agreed that such a tour did more to cement relations between the USA and Australia than all the diplomats and foreign correspondents. In a money centred society, the fact that the Australians were true amateurs was impressive. It showed that on the field the club-fostered Australians were worthy opponents. The City of Baltimore granted honorary citizenship to "The Australian All-Star Lacrosse Team".

The Australian touring side gave a good account of itself during its tour of America. The results were:

27 March	v	Southern California All-Stars	won	18-6
30 March	v	Florida All-Stars	won	31-5
2 April	v	Washington & Lee University	lost	10-15
7 April	v	Mount Washington	won	20-19
11 April	v	University of Maryland	lost	10-22
16 April	v	Rutgers University	won	18-7
20 April	v	Long Island, New York	lost	16-22
23 April	v	Cortland State	won	18-6
26 April	v	Canada All-Stars	won	27-12
	v	America-Washington Club	won	15-11
	v	America-Long Island	lost	24-26

Having played twelve matches, they had lost only three.

International lacrosse was still finding its way. The main difficulty was that the playing base in countries varied, and therefore the rules governing the game locally varied from place to place. A code of rules governing international games was drawn up, and it was used in international contests, but it differed sometimes quite markedly from local rules, and thus set some teams at a disadvantage.

The American game was based almost entirely at universities. In the university situation there was no grading of teams within each university. All members of the squad for that year were "on the team". Only twelve were on the ground at one time, but there were perhaps 38 reserves who could be brought on and off the ground as the coach directed. In the English and Australian situation, based on small clubs, no such proliferation of reserves was possible. Members unable to gain a place on the first team were selected for the second, and so on down the line. But even an American touring team was limited in numbers, so that for international purposes, a compromise could easily be reached. The USA was therefore prepared to limit its reserves for international matches, while retaining its traditional organisation for domestic games.

Traditional lacrosse had deteriorated because of the reduction of centre play. All players, except the goalie, went everywhere. From the spectators point of view all that could be seen was a whirling mass of players and the flashing of sticks. The Americans devised the "off-side" rule to improve the game as a spectacle, but English players were reluctant to accept a variation coming especially from America. Again, domestic rules in England varied from the international code. In Canada, "field lacrosse" was practically unknown, the game having been superseded by "box lacrosse". It must be remembered that the length and severity of the Canadian winter did not encourage open-air sport. Box lacrosse, played indoors and

under artificial lights was an excellent solution to their problem. Box lacrosse was a six-a-side game, very fast, and requiring great skill in stickwork. Canadian players were reluctant to revive the field game when the box game suited their purposes so well. The "Box" was typically an ice skating rink used for ice hockey in winter. Box lacrosse was typically played in the off season to ice hockey. Many players played both sports.

The following article, headed "Sports Scene" by Red Duddin expresses the situation:

FIELD LACROSSE TOURNAMENT ON WEEKEND

"Quickly now, what sport is played exclusively in Canada and nowhere else? Box lacrosse of course. Still curious? What sport is almost a forgotten item in Canada but played in many other parts of the world? Answer: field lacrosse.

Despite the semi-popularity of the box game here and the all but unheard of field sport, the Canadian Lacrosse Association (CLA) is staging a three day field tournament at Etobicoke Centennial Park, beginning Saturday. The participants will include Long Island and Mount Washington from the US colleges, the Canadian national squad, and the Australian national team. Long Island was the 1975 field Lacrosse champion, and Mount Washington, runner up.

So why is Canada getting the field game going again? According to CLA President, Doug Budden, field lacrosse will be one of the sports of the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton in 1978. "Naturally, as host country, we want to field a competitive team." Budden says.

With this in mind, the CLA sent out invitations to many juniors and a few senior stars asking if they wanted to play field lacrosse for the next three years. The incentive being offered were trips throughout US and Canada, plus possible overseas. For instance, the Canadian field team had a week in Florida last month, and have played exhibition matches in New York State, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Delaware. As a prelude to the Centennial Park tournament the Canadians play the Australians in an exhibition tilt tomorrow night at Oshawa.

LARGE RESPONSE

Many other side benefits are possible as members of the field lacrosse club, such as athletic scholarships at American colleges, including Yale, Harvard, Rutgers and others. "If a player wants to complete his education and also play lacrosse, we can assist him" Budden says. "But the only stipulation would be that he play for Canada in any tournament."

Close to 160 athletes expressed formal interest in becoming part of the national team and by March 1 cut off date, about 39 remained. Included from the local area are Dave Huntly, Jerry Sobrie, Randy Novacks, Al Ramsier, Ted Hopkins, and Guy Frelich, all of whom have played junior in the Etobicoke area.

MIXED EMOTIONS

Plenty of controversy is evident even between dedicated lacrosse men about which game is better. At a recent banquet, Ken Kevindom, who played field lacrosse and then switched to box in 1932, claimed box is the far better game. His team mate of the Minto 1932 Canadian championships, prefers the field game. One banquet attendee roared: This is a backward step" Budden replied, "Not necessarily, we are expanding". Another diner asked, "Why cannot the outsiders play our box game when they come to Canada?" Budden had an

answer for that as he replied, "The Australians want to learn our box game. They like it, but unfortunately, there has not been the funds available to send expert coaches down under to teach them."

(The Canadians had forgotten that box lacrosse had previously been played in Melbourne, but had been discarded because senior players sustained injuries which incapacitated them for the week-end field lacrosse games, which to them was the more important. Nor did they know that a box-lacrosse association had been formed in Victoria three years ago, and was now beginning to gather momentum. The six-a-side game had also for many years been a traditional event in the Victorian junior gymkhana.)

In his speech Budden revealed that The People's Republic of China had asked for a series of games and coaches to teach them both field and box lacrosse. "Things looked bright", he said "for a series of exhibition games in Red China within a couple of years.

Some idea of box lacrosse as played in Canada may be gained from the article "Lacrosse in a Box" in Newsweek, August 25, 1975, the article by-line being credited to Peter Bonventre.

LACROSSE IN A BOX

"Doug Hayes, of the Long Island Tomahawks cradled the ball in the webbing of his stick, blew past one defender, ran over another – and rumbled toward the Quebec goal. At point-blank range Hayes shifted his stick high above his right shoulder and nearly decapitated the goalie with his club as he drove the ball into the net. That play last week was typical of the furious action of the National Lacrosse League, one of the most recent and least likely additions to the roster of American professional sport.

In box lacrosse, as the professional game is called, the boisterous, beery fans don't seem to care much if their team wins or loses – but how it plays the game. Last year, when the league was born, it advertised itself as "the meanest game in the world" and its players as closet Huns who pillaged towns for week-end entertainment. Today, the league is trying to re-educate spectators in the sport's more subtle skills, and perhaps the result attendance is down to an average 4,704 a game. Still, the mere survival in six franchises – Boston, Maryland, Philadelphia, Montreal, Long Island and Quebec – of a sport that has its roots in Canada and is an inferior version of the old Indian game of field lacrosse is reason enough for surprise.

Box lacrosse contains elements of ice-hockey, and basketball and a more than passing resemblance to gang warfare with tire irons. It is played in a hockey rink – with six men to a side. There is more scoring than in hockey (thanks to a rule requiring a shot on goal every 30 seconds) as well as picks, fast breaks and other techniques borrowed from basketball.

When played smoothly and expertly, box lacrosse is a marvellous pastiche of improvised passing, shot making and goal tending. Still, the fans are happiest when it dissolves into a chaotic blur of flying fists and sticks. In last week's game, for example, the loudest cheers went to a Tomahawk player who grabbed an opponent round the neck, rammed his head into the boards – and then flipped him into the penalty box. Even Tomahawk coach, Morley Kells seems always on the brink of violence. Spewing a stream of obscenities at his players, he punctuated his various disappointments by slamming his clipboard to the ground and kicking the plexiglass wall behind the bench.

With his dark, curly hair and drooping moustache, Tomahawk star, Hayes looks more malevolent than his coach, but is actually a soft-spoken player who leads the league in scoring 205 points. At 6 feet 3 inches and 220 pounds, Hayes is almost impossible to stop on a one-on-one dash on goal. "But don't think I have it easy", he says, "Because I'm bigger, most guys think they can hit me harder." Like 90 per cent of the NLL players the 24 year old Hayes was born and raised in Canada. When the season ends, he will return to his hometown of Vancouver and play semi-pro rugby. "In rugby you just get scrapes and bruises", says Hayes. "In box lacrosse you get gashes that need stitches"

It is small wonder that amateur lacrosse players view with some repugnance many aspects of box lacrosse.

It will be seen that there were problems facing the development of international lacrosse, and opportunities which if properly exploited, could lead to great developments in the game.

The Australian team continued on its tour and visited England. Although by 1976 political and economical ties with England had been greatly weakened, Australia's social structure was still English. There were still many emotional links between Australia and England and to make anything which would bring about happy relations between the two countries was a matter of importance. Lacrosse, with its firm adherence to amateur principles, already had many friends, some of them in high places.

The Australian team received the high hospitality that had always been part of the policy of English associations. The President of the ALC was able to be in England at the time of the visit, and represented Australia at the Mayor's Chambers in Stockport, and at the dinner held in the Greater Manchester Council Chambers.

"It was a pleasure" Mr Wiles wrote, "to meet the team and find that they were so well received. I can assure the ALC that all future Australian teams will receive a warm welcome in England if their conduct and sportsmanship follow the pattern of the touring side."

Two matches were played, against All-England and South of England. The more important game was the All-England game. On previous tours Australia had won three games but in 1976 England was confident of victory. England hoped to draw level. They rightly felt they had experience on their side, the Australian team consisting mainly of young player with a view to building a strong representative team for the future world championships in 1978. Their optimism was justified.

As was reported: "England defeated Australia 15-11 at Grove Park, Cheadle Hulme, after one of the best exhibitions of lacrosse ever seen in this country. After a strong opening in which the English defence conceded chances to Australia, England led 4-2. Australia took quick advantage of England's errors in the second period and levelled the score at half time. England were under pressure throughout the third period and Australia held the initiative deserved, and were 10-9 ahead at three quarter time. Play was fast and of a high standard at all times. England lasted the pace better, and in the closing stages were unquestionably the better co-ordinated in both the tackle and defence.

By winning this fine match England became the first holders of recently presented cup for matches between England and Australia. The South of England team was no match for the Australians, Australia winning by 31 goals to 4. Thus ended another successful overseas tour.

It has been some years since an inter-varsity competition was recorded in annual reports. In 1976 it was played between the Melbourne, Adelaide and La Trobe universities. The La Trobe University acted as hosts to the Adelaide team. The scores were:

Melbourne	36	d	La Trobe	9
Adelaide	39	d	La Trobe	6
Melbourne	20	d	Adelaide	17

If this competition could be revived, and expanded by participation from the new universities established during this period, it could lead to a great increase in numbers and expansion of the game.

The continuation of the publication of the Victorian magazine "Lacrosse" also strengthened the cohesion of the Victorian association. It was evident that at the domestic level, lacrosse in Victoria was in a healthy condition, and the increase in spectators showed a wider spread of people from whom some, at least, financial support could be obtained.

The interstate program, with its three levels of championships absorbed much administration, time and effort. It was rostered among the three main playing states, so that the heaviest burden fell upon each state once in three years. Administratively, it was a constant preoccupation of the Australian Lacrosse Council. Victoria had little success in the championships in 1976. The senior championships were held in Adelaide during July and the junior championships in Perth during September. Sending two representative teams interstate costs money, and it says something for the state of the association's finances that they were able to do this. The South Australian association showed its strength by winning both championships.

Western Australian newspapers commented on the Colts championships:

"GOOD ATTACK GIVES SA WIN IN LACROSSE"

"A talented attack enabled South Australia to beat Victoria 23-19 when the Australian Colts lacrosse championships began at Lathlain Park yesterday. Paul Lynch, George Scavelis, and David Gaskell were on top throughout and provided SA with a sure avenue to goal. The match was decided in the second quarter when SA built up a march winning score of 14-5. Victoria looked much better when Ross Freeman was moved into the forward line. However, the steadiness of Lynch, who was always alert in front of goals lifted SA, and they led 18-11 at three quarter time."

Of the match against the No 1 colts team, the Western Australian (18 July 1976) said:

"In a tight, defensive game, WA held off a determined Victorian side, to win 13-11 in the Australian Lacrosse Colts Championships at Lathlain Park yesterday." WA will now meet the title holders, South Australia at the Perry Lakes Stadium tomorrow.

The defences of both sides were in command throughout, except for the first 10 minutes, when WA established a 3 goal advantage.

Victoria were only 1 goal behind with ten minutes to go. However a goal from WA's Paul Boyley sealed the match."

The junior championships held in Perth resulted in a South Australian victory. Victoria defeated Western Australia 22-12, but South Australia defeated Victoria 18-15.

We must realise that seasons are not water-tight boxes. Preparations for events begin a long time before they actually take place. The season 1976 was a busy one, both from the point of view of events carried through, and for preparations for things to come. An overseas tour was under consideration for 1977, and the world championships to be held in England in 1978 required much administrative preparation in the years preceding it. It is astonishing how many and how large were the projects carried out in the name of a sport that in statistical figures was not strongly supported. It says much for the force and devotion of the leaders of the sport that so much was done by so few.

After all the excitement of 1976 and the anticipations of 1978, Victorian lacrosseurs might well have looked for a quiet year in which to relax a little, and gather strength for the great effort of 1978. Things do not work out like that: past events have their residue of unresolved problems, inadequately paid accounts and so on; while coming events demand much effort in fund raising and organisation. Above all, the impetus of the game at home must be maintained. It is inevitable that players will withdraw from the game, some through the ravages of the years, some through movement because of employment, some through taking up other sports, and some through idleness. To maintain its strength a game must attract at least as many new players as it loses through other causes.

On the surface the VLA may have had reason to be concerned. The total number of open-age registrations showed a fall, being only 654 as against 675 in 1976. Such figures mean little by themselves. An aberrant year may mean little, but the trend is important. If 1976 was a single year of reduction merely interrupting the upward trend of previous years, it was unfortunate, but not devastating. If however it proved to be the first year introducing a downward trend there was cause for alarm. The indications were such as to justify optimism.

First of all, there was increasing interest in the game in the physical education departments of several training colleges. Rusden College and the Preston Institute of Technology included lacrosse in their games programs, Don Miller and Les Goding providing tutoring at these colleges.

There was an increasing interest in lacrosse as an alternative sport in schools. Existing clubs should adopt one school as an adjunct to the club, and give potential recruits the chance to play games. It was stated that if clubs adopted schools, in which the ground-work of lacrosse had already been done by physical education teachers, the association could more than double its figures inside 5 years. A survey had shown that the Noble Park area was ripe for the formation of a club and four lacrosseurs were being sought for forming an administration and doing the necessary foundation work. The Bentleigh-Moorabbin areas also showed potential. As with so many things, the harvest was ripe but workers were few. The next year, 1978, was the centenary of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association, so every effort should be made to attract players, and bring publicity to the game. An indication of some need of a change of heart was the loss of \$600 on the Newsletter, so painstakingly compiled and distributed by Terry Allington. But the signs that lacrosse was still very much on the upward curve were clear, conditional upon enough people doing as much as their circumstances and positions might enable them to do so.

A point worth emphasising was made by President Henry Volk when he stated that the Under 19 section was firmly established. This is the age when the most significant losses of players to the game is made. At 18 a new work opens for a young man. He becomes licensed to drive a motor car or own a motor bike. Many social calls are made on his time. Whatever sport he has hitherto enjoyed he now tends to become more deeply involved with girls, politics, surfing, golf or tennis. He enters upon his life's career, and work must be taken more seriously. If the young player can be held faithful to his sport beyond his 19th

year, the chances are that he will consider it his main interest. The success of the Under 19 competition is gratifying.

Lacrosse is not a cheap game. The player is involved in the private expense of his own gear, his crosse, his uniform and his protective gear. In an institution these expenses are usually met through clubs. In cricket, for example, the nets, the bats, the balls, the ground expenses, are met by clubs from the grants made through the Victorian Cricket Association based on the profits made from international cricket; as are expenses for touring sides. Not so the lacrosseurs. He provides his own. He also pays dues to the VALA, and the ALC, as well as his club subscription. Young players and their parents alike meet this expense, at any rate at first, with some reluctance, if not disapproval.

In spite of all this there was a successful junior competition containing 17 clubs, and a total of 654 players. This is a large number of players and invites no small amount of organisation. Financially its contribution is potential rather than actual. Allowing even for the substantial number of inevitable defections from the game, there is a sufficient remainder to more than balance senior losses. Taken overall, the indications for continuing growth were promising.

The VALA did not confine itself to development of the game within the state. There had previously been a renewed interest in lacrosse in Tasmania. Peter Lane, late of Camberwell-Glen Iris, went to live in Hobart, and immediately set about reviving the game there. The VALA allocated \$1,000 worth of equipment to the newly formed Tasmanian association. An active competition was set up, and a number of lacrosse devotees gathered around to keep the game expanding. The Camberwell-Glen Iris and the Glenroy clubs visited Hobart to play an exhibition game and help stimulate interest. The Glenroy women's team also visited Hobart and played against a team from Hobart. The ALC commented on the development in the game in Tasmania, firstly at the junior level, and expressed the hope that they could bring a competitive side from Tasmania to take part in the national championships.

The teacher training section of the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education had been playing, teaching and demonstrating the game for over two years. Four teams of women played regularly, and there was a strong increase in numbers. Male teachers and some friends trained regularly and played demonstration games. Demonstration games and introductory coaching was given in eight local schools. Many trainee teachers acquainted with lacrosse were now holding positions in local schools.

The plans for 1977 included the development of the game in 4 local high schools selected as bases. Each was the geographical centre of 2 or more areas with a large number of children. Near each school were former lacrosse enthusiasts willing to form the organisational hub of a local club. The physical education staff included teachers from the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education willing to assist with coaching. A recruiting drive was proposed in each school. The aim was to establish 4 clubs, each aiming to be split in half after 2 years. The primary aim was to establish an A section, probably formed from teams of 7 a side at the start. A senior women's team was also to be established. There were sufficient numbers already to form a girl's team, the age to be decided according to response. After school coaching was to be instituted early in the recruiting period. Regular competition was to be organised in time for the normal season. Publicity would be sought in local papers and in the Mercury District Supplement.

The Tasmanian association suggested to the VALA and the ALC that it would be glad of assistance in the following ways:

- (a) Contacts with past players and enthusiasts;
- (b) Training films;

- (c) About mid-year, they would benefit from a visit by a team, or by individuals. Perhaps a couple of senior teams could visit Hobart for a coaching weekend and practice games;

Grounds for each such prospect would be available. Goals were to be constructed in February. Equipment was needed. Recruiting was more successful when initial trials did not involve costly equipment. The Tasmanian association hoped to receive enough racquets for infant clubs to be able to equip 20 players in practice matches, or one team at a time in a Saturday competition. In addition to the grant already made to the Tasmanian association by the VALA, the VALA immediately sent 40 more racquets to Hobart.

Lacrosse has a unique family atmosphere; Peter Lane expressing his support for the formation of the Tasmanian association was quoted as saying that:

"He must be the oldest recruit in history. He was introduced to the game in 1976 to what he considered the best ball game he had ever played. Come hell or high water my 3 sons and I will be pleased to help welcome you all to Tasmanian lacrosse in whatever form we can hope to revive it."

This trend is perhaps better illustrated in an article appearing in the Herald, Sydney(5 September, 1976):

"FAMILY HAS 15 INVOLVED IN ONE GAME

The Finnegan household of West Heidelberg must surely rate inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records as the biggest family dedicated to a single sport. It can claim no less than 15 devotees to lacrosse. They are Mr Thomas Finnegan, his wife Patricia, five sons, Thomas 27, Richard 19, Geoffrey 14, and Rodney 10, four daughters, Jennifer (Mrs Robbins) 25, Kate (Mrs Bundy) 24, Helen 20, and Sue 16, two son-in-laws, Neil Robbins and Alan Bundy, daughter-in-law Cheryl, and niece, Glenys Stanley, from Brisbane.

For good measure add Richard's girl friend, Dawn Fletcher, 17, who plays for Coburg, and Alan Bundy's mother, Mrs Jean Bundy, an official of the Coburg Lacrosse Club.

Mr Finnegan played the game until this year, when he switched to umpiring. Mrs Finnegan, a former player, inspires her children to excel in it.

Daughters Kate, Helen and Sue were in the Victorian team which finished third behind South Australia and Western Australia at the recent Australian championships in Adelaide. After the carnival, Kate won a place in the Australian team to tour the United States next April.

This was great news for the Finnegan family which will rally round to help Kate raise the \$1,500-\$2,000 each of the 24 women in the team contribute towards cost of the tour."

Now turning to one of the most important elements in development of the game, and that is of coaching. If Australia was to raise its standard sufficiently to defeat the United States in the near future, it must become acquainted with the most up to date methods of developing skills and tactics. Furthermore, it was increasingly evident that at this time South Australia was showing superiority, which Victorian players would need to work hard to overcome. Thus seminars on coaching were organised. To learn the latest American methods of coaching they invited Mr Larry Story, the coach of the Yale University College in America to conduct a demonstration game on 19 June, 1977. The Chadstone club had invited Larry Story to play for them in 1977.

The program is worth recording in detail partly for its approach to coaching, and partly to reveal to spectators and others that with only a passing interest in lacrosse, where the subtleties and exhibition of skill really lie.

Pre-practice	Goalie warm up; facing off; shooting; dodging.
10:00-10:05	Calisthenics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• heavier earlier in the season, but maintained throughout the year;• a loosening up and conditioning period.
10:05-10:15	Agility drills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• wave drill, defensive drill, backward-forward, a conditioning and footwork drill.
10:15-10:30	Stickwork and shooting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• very heavy early in season;• vary passing, catching and ground ball drills daily. Emphasis on TALK;• skeleton offense, clearing defense drills.
10:30-10:40	1 on 1, 2 on 2, 3 on 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• heavy early in season;• attack and middies work on individual dodges and in team play.
10:40-11:00	Footbreak drills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• used throughout the season.
11:00-11:30	Half field scrimmage (6 on 6): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• heavier in season;• concentrate on incentive set-up and also defensive team play;• 2-2-2 offense.
11:30-11:45	Extra man offense – man down defense: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• heavier as year goes on and its emphasis on opponent's play as seen in scouting report;• 3-1-2 rotation play versus 5 zone.
11:45-12:00	Riding clearance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• heavier as year goes on using scouting reports;• pressure ride on 4 across;• full field.
12:00-12:10	Conditioning

Obviously all these training activities could not be used every training afternoon, but the purpose of the seminar was to show areas of skill and methods of developing them. The club coach would exercise his judgement as to when and how they were used. The variety of the exercises demonstrated would enable him to avoid monotony.

The spectators must realise that everything happens very quickly. Each man must know exactly what he has to do, and out of this arises the team work so essential to good lacrosse, yet often so imperceptible to the spectator.

The VLA was anxious to help physical education teachers in country towns to promote lacrosse. The big problem here was to find responsible adults who would make themselves responsible for formation and administration of clubs. They had learned from their metropolitan experience that adult support was necessary for the adequate functioning of junior clubs. Teachers such as Helen Davies, posted as physical education teacher to Castlemaine had toured the United States in 1972, of which she was vice-captain. She established a club in 1972 and competed in the metropolitan pennant at Royal Park. Though credit for this venture must lie with the women's association, its formation showed that there was a strong possibility of establishing lacrosse in country towns.

At the committee of management (16 March 1977) the Surrey Park club was allowed to stage a demonstration practice match at Shepparton in April. On 19 August 1977, Miss Worland of Euroa asked the committee of management for information regarding the physical education course. As the enquiry was addressed to the Victorian Lacrosse Association, one may at least suspect that it originated from an interest in lacrosse. The Horsham High School requested the use of a training kit between 19 July 1977 & 7 October 1977. The Lyndale High School also requested the use of a training kit during the third term.

On 19 October 1977 permission was given to the Caulfield club to stage an Under 16 game between Mitcham and Maryborough. It seemed that there was an increasing interest in lacrosse in some country centres, though the centres at which at one time lacrosse had been an active sport were not included. It would be a great advance if lacrosse could be placed in a position of prominence in country districts. The VLA showed in its domestic administration, a courage and imagination that deserved success. It is now time to relate its activities at interstate level

The annual juniors match against South Australia was played on 19th June 1977. Unfortunately very heavy rain badly affected grounds, and the game had to be moved from the Albert Ground to Caulfield Park, outer ground. The results of the match were that Victoria defeated South Australia by 22 goals to 6, and thus became the custodians of the Carl Shultz Cup.

We are now well aware of the amount of time and energy that must be devoted to selecting a team for interstate competition. Only those who have had the chance to supervise boys know the weight of anxiety that the irresponsibility of teenage boys brings with it. A tragic example occurred during this fixture. The following extract from "The Herald", 4th October 1977 reveals the sort of incident that is always nagging at the back of the mind of the manager of a junior team.

"DARE KILLED TWO - POLICE

Police believe a dare may have led to the deaths of two youths who were crushed under a bridge while riding on the roof of the Overland Express. Police said today they had learnt it was a "common practice" among sporting clubs to climb over the roof of the train on interstate trips.

The two dead youths were members of the Glenelg lacrosse team and were returning to Adelaide after an end of season challenge match in Melbourne. They died when they were sandwiched between the train roof and a bridge over the tracks at Great Western, 210km north west of Melbourne soon after midnight yesterday.

Their bodies were found by a local resident about 60 metres from the bridge, 7½ hours later. Police said the youths were David Keelan, 18, of Ramsay Avenue Seacombe Gardens, and Geoffrey Slaughter, 20 of Main Road, Mylor. They said both the Glenelg and the Burnside clubs had come to Melbourne on Friday, on the Overland Express for end of season games. Burnside played Chadstone, while Glenelg played Surrey Park on Saturday afternoon.

Informed sources said today they understood several players from one of the clubs had climbed the roof of the train on the trip to Melbourne. They said they understood the two dead youths were answering a dare to do the same thing on the return journey. The dare was to climb out a side door of the train, across the roof, and re-enter the train on the other side. The sources said it was quite common for similar dares among sporting clubs travelling interstate on such trips.

A VicRail spokesman said it would be extremely difficult to climb the roof of a moving train. He said there were only a handrail and a narrow guttering to climb. He said that once on the roof there was nothing on which to hold. The spokesman said the train would have been travelling at up to 110kph, but would have slowed to about 60kph as it entered the restricted zone near the bridge."

Who would undertake such onerous duties? Yet the VLA and other associations constantly found men willing to give their time for such duties. Fortunately the junior carnival in Victoria was carried through successfully with the greatest amiability on both sides.

In order of seniority, the Colts championship details are as follows. The games were played in Melbourne on 14th, 16th and 18th June 1977. The series was to be played at the Albert Ground.

The results were:

Victoria	25	d	President's team	10
South Australia	15	d	Western Australia	9
South Australia	10	d	President's team	9
Victoria	19	d	Western Australia	10
Western Australia	21	d	President's team	12
South Australia	12	d	Victoria	9

Thus South Australia won the championship, Victoria was second and Western Australia last in third place.

The Victorian Under-16 team worked hard, and were given stringent instructions:

1. "Be confident of winning, and we will win";
2. "Win the ball and we must win;
3. "How to win: - Running 100% all day,
 - Ground balls, hunting in packs,
 - Riding – running and hunting,
 - Clearing – sides short, not long,
 - Checking – body not stick,
 - Goals – shots x 20,

- 1st dodge – pass – shot,
 - Man up - 1-4-1,
 - Man down – corners,
 - Discipline & combined. Talk 100% for 100 minutes,
 - Concentration – 100% for 100 minutes.
4. “Ball moves”;
 5. “Possession”;
 6. “Attack behind 4:3:1”;
 7. “Win centre”;
 8. “No luck: we make our own luck”;
 9. “Man of the match”.

The seniors championships were held in Perth the games being played on Tuesday 12, Thursday 14 and Saturday 16 July. The Western Australian association conducted the championships with the skill and generosity for which they were noted. Their program was as follows:

Monday,	11 July	Free day;
Tuesday,	12 July	Western Australia vs President's team, Esplanade, 10:30 am; Official opening by Minister of Sport, 12:00 pm; South Australia vs Victoria, 1:00 pm; Kujak Dinner, Claremont Showgrounds, 6:00 pm;
Wednesday,	13 July	Mayoral Reception, Council House, 12:00 pm;
Thursday,	14 July	President's Team vs Winner SA vs Vic, Esplanade, 10:30 am; WA vs Loser SA vs Vic, Esplanade, 1:00 pm;
Friday,	15 July	Free day;
Saturday,	16 July	President's Team vs Loser SA vs Vic, Perry Lakes Stadium, 12:00 pm; Western Australia vs Winner SA vs Vic, Perry Lakes Stadium, 2:30 pm; Cabaret, Kensington PoC, 8:00 pm;
Sunday,	17 July	Pick up at hotel for trip to Yanchep (East Oval) and BBQ, 10:30 am;
Monday,	18 July	Australian selection match, Esplanade, 11:30 am;
Tuesday,	19 July	South Australian and Victorian teams depart.

The Victorian players cost of their trip to Western Australia was to be \$380.00. The results of the championship were:

South Australia	17	d	Victoria	15
Victoria	22	d	Western Australia	14
South Australia	20	d	Western Australia	7

The South Australian team won the championship after a close game against Victoria, and were once more holders of the Garland-McHarg Cup.

Though the great events of 1978 were still to come, the preparations must be made in 1977. Travel arrangements must be finalised, officials appointed, teams selected, and, most difficult of all, money must be raised. This was ultimately the responsibility of the Australian Lacrosse Council, but it could work only through the state associations. The ALC therefore requested that the states appoint an official to take charge of raising funds for sending teams to the world championships in Manchester, and a box-lacrosse team to the Commonwealth Games in Canada.

The effect of this directive indicates a lack of unanimity between the States. Victoria appointed Mr Norm Gibbs, but it already had an organisation, the visits committee, whose responsibility was to raise finance for official visits generally. No reply was received from South Australia or Western Australia. The Australian Lacrosse Council was inclined to criticize the general administration of these two states. The real reason must have laid elsewhere, for they both conducted Australian championships with distinction when it came their turn to do so. From the conception of overseas tours, those states had unequivocally expressed their view that money would be more effectively spent in promoting lacrosse at home, and their reluctance to do their share in subscribing to international ventures may have been in no small degree due to the traditional interstate jealousies. Victoria stipulated that any funds raised would be devoted to the assistance of Victorian representatives. But the Australian Lacrosse Council felt that the Australian team could be successful if whole of Australian lacrosse was behind it.

There may have been some justification for the Western Australian and South Australian position in the matter of the tour to Canada. At that time, box lacrosse was played only in Victoria, where it had been played under lights at the Fearon Reserve, Williamstown. Six teams played in home and away games. A lightning premiership was conducted at the conclusion of the first half of the season. Eventually the differences were amicably settled, and on 11 August the following year, at Edmonton, Canada, lacrosse made its first appearance at the Commonwealth Games.

After the unusual recommendations from the state associations the following preliminary training squad was selected

<u>Victoria</u>	<u>South Australia</u>	<u>Western Australia</u>
R. Walton	E. Jones	G. Kennedy
G. Garnsworthy	S. Johnson	G. Delfs
R. Tatlow	B. Thompson	L. Morley
K. Daly	P. Lynch	P. Cann
D. Joy	W. Sutton	J. Kennedy
R. Cordell	W. Hobbs	J. Ballarine
P. Morley	J. Tomlin	
B. Smith	R. Duthy	
J. Butkiewicz	G. Hobbs	
T. Hardy	T. Denton	
G. Tillotson	D. Wright	
G. Fox	N. Speck	
R. Twomey	P. Clisby	
	R. Flett	
	A. Hobbs	

Mr J Forrester (SA) was appointed coach, but was forced to relinquish the position for family reasons, and Mr J Carter (SA) replaced him.

F. J. Poat (WA)	Asst Coach
A. Inglis (Vic)	Asst Coach
A. Chiron (Vic)	Team Manager
G. Gatley (SA)	Asst Team Manager
Mrs J. Clayfield	Trainer/Physiotherapist
M. Redfern (WA)	Referee
D. Reymont (Vic)	Referee

*

On 13 November 1977, a meeting was held under the direction of the coaches. At this meeting matters were raised concerning the tour arrangements, trial games, rules, style of game, team composition, training arrangements, additions to the squad, and coaching

duties. At this meeting the names of D. Fox (Vic), R. Twomey (Vic), P. Clisby (SA) and A. Hobbs (SA) were added to the squad.

In addition to the official team, whose numbers were restricted to 30 by the English Lacrosse Union, the supporters' group was organised and R. Stahmer (Vic) was appointed group leader. The meeting endorsed the principle of a tour of Great Britain by the supporters' group before the championship.

Certain points of procedure were defined. The interest of the official group was paramount. The supporters' group was separate. The senior coach would rank above the team manager, and make the final decision if necessary. It was estimated that the supporters' group would include 40-50 from Victoria, 15 from SA, and 15 from WA. The International Liaison Officer was asked if space might be made available at English grounds for Australian sponsors.

The itinerary for the tour of England was drawn up as follows:

22 June	Leave Melbourne, WA support group fly direct to Kuala Lumpur to join others;
23 June	Fly to London;
24-27 June	London;
27-30 June	Manchester
	Supporters group tour Britain;
1-7 July	World Championships;
10 July	Manchester – London (all), and depart for European tour;
16 July	Return to London;
17 July	London to Kuala Lumpur;
18 July	Arrive Kuala Lumpur;
19 July	Kuala Lumpur – Singapore or Penang;
22 July	Depart Kuala Lumpur for Melbourne and Perth;
23 July	Arrive Melbourne and Perth.

The price of the tour would be approximately \$2,050.00

We must now consider the trip to Canada of the Australian representatives of box lacrosse. The first point at issue was as to who actually controlled box lacrosse in Australia. Many felt that the Australian Lacrosse Council was the final authority for all lacrosse played in Australia. Others felt that box lacrosse was a specialised form of the game, and played only in Victoria. However, when the Australian Lacrosse Council undertook to finance the tour, and generally take box lacrosse into its jurisdiction, there was no opposition.

It was decided that players eligible to be selected for the Australian team should have played box lacrosse in 1977. This virtually restricted the team to Victorians, but South Australia and Western Australia were interested in the game and a proposition was laid before the Australian Lacrosse Council that at least 2 players should be selected from each state.

The probable departure date for the tour would be 31st July, for a tour lasting 2 or 3 weeks. The Australian Lacrosse Council could offer some assistance with accommodation, but the estimated cost would be \$1,000.00 - \$1,200.00. The team was to consist of 15 players and 1 manager. The appearance at the Commonwealth Games would be 11th August 1978. Two warm up games would be played in Vancouver, and probably 1 at Edmonton before the exhibition. Another game might be played in Los Angeles, if free accommodation was available.

Australia, indeed the world, had entered into a new era in sport. Whereas amateurism had been regarded as a basic element in sport, now after passing through a period of shame,

professionalism was the ideal of a young man or woman gifted in athletic prowess. This change came about through 2 influences; government support of some sports, and sponsorship by private enterprises. Government support arose from the natural desire of politicians to win votes, and give publicity to political policies. We need only consider the Munich Olympic Games to see the rise of political control and the fall of amateurism. People such as Terry Vines, Sports Editor of the Melbourne Herald were aware of this trend, and in the issue of 21st November 1977 wrote:

"It strikes me as a strange quirk in this age of vast sponsorship in sport that the greedy do extremely well the needy just stay needy.

Millions of dollars are now finding their way into tennis, golf, football, racing, trotting and greyhounds. And yet the Victorian Amateur Athletics Association, and the Women's Amateur Athletic Association cannot find a sponsor to pick up the tab for \$14,000 to bring some of the world's best athletes to this city of sport on February 2 and 3.

Racing, trotting, and greyhounds are thriving, thanks to the TAB cut from millions invested by the punting public. Their sponsors of course are welcome, and give the industry an added phillip. There is no denying that, but nonetheless the industry won't suffer for want of it.

Cricket is only just emerging in the field of sports sponsorship and it's pleasing to note that at least 30% of the money announced for the test team this week by the Amatil organisation will go to the promotion of cricket. For too long now Australia's cricketers have made far too little out of their ability and it's good that they should have a better part of the spoils. But it doesn't mean to say that they should get it all.

Football and tennis are the classic case of sponsorship gone awry. Today is a good example. Channel 7 is televising live from Hobart, the Phillip-Morris sponsored tennis, and we shall see the same old faces competing for the sponsor's money as were seen on our sets for nigh on 5 weeks.

Most of the money is leaving the country in the hands of overseas blow-ins who then bellyache about the amount that comes out of it. The point is, nothing goes back into the game. Yet also today is the international tennis in Perth, where Australia and India are doing battle on the centre court in the Davis Cup. There is no shadow of doubt where the tennis interest is, but we will not see one forehand of this.

Where is the sponsor now? Wasting his time and money on the same old hungry participants in Hobart, all of whom are dong very nicely out of tennis all round the world, thank you very much. And, who are putting precious little back into it.

Football sponsorship is now getting to absurd proportions. Even my own newspaper's sponsorship of the VFL's night football series leaves me puzzled. Very few people in Australian sport are as well catered for as our VFL footballers. Yet, they still want more. The odd thing is that all sponsorship going into football seems aimed right at these hungry sportsmen, and very little goes to the good of the game. Every sponsor and receiver alike, is in it only for his own commercial gain and not for the good of the sport.

So we come to the VAAA's and the VWAAA's Melbourne Games on February 2 and 3. Hot on the heels of the highly successful Sydney Games, sponsored by

a brewery, these bodies have at least 10 of world's greatest athletes coming to compete at Olympic Park. For years Australia's athletes have suffered for a lack of international competition. We saw this come to a head in Montreal last July. Now we have at least 10 of the world's best athletes coming here, offering our own rank amateurs the best type of competition and incentive to do well.

Athletics, the sport has everything to gain. The overseas stars include Irena Szwinska of Poland, who won the 400metres gold medal at Montreal and who is recognised as one of the greatest women athletes the world has seen. From the United States there are the world's 440 yards hurdles record holder, Jim Bolding and prolific Olympic medallist Willie Davenport, 110 metre hurdles. Bronislaw Malinowski from Poland ran second in the dramatic 3,000 metres steeplechase in Montreal. He'll be here. Its not certain yet, but the New Zealand masters of distance, Dick Quax, John Walker, and Rod Dixon may also be here.

The two amateur bodies need \$14,500 to have all these stars right here. Now where are the sponsors when there is a chance to do something really good for sport? Nowhere in sight! But the same old group of tennis players are competing for their tens of thousands of dollars in Hobart, the cricketers will be competing for hundreds of thousands of dollars over the next three years, and the footballers will get their million dollars over the next five. It's not good enough, you gentlemen controlling the purse strings.

Sport in Australia badly needs money, but it should be going to sport generally rather than the talented few singly. We may see from this eloquent article the position of sponsorship in the over-all field of sport. If sponsors spend \$1,000 dollars on an aspect of sport they anticipate a return of \$2,000. This means that sponsorship is viable only at venues where great crowds may be gathered. Great crowds gather only when publicity is concentrated on a few competitors, so that emotions may be stimulated. In the last few years, an activity that will attract an extensive television audience will attract sponsors. There are phrases even Mr Vines uses which emphasise the position. Activities previously known as "sports" are now called "industries".

The devotee who supports the game merely for the love of it is called a "rank" amateur, as if there is something disreputable about amateurism. In such a climate, in such a society, a game proudly boasting its amateurism, such as lacrosse, was unlikely to draw much sponsorship."

The only piece of sponsorship revealed in the documents of the association was that Mobil Australia consented to print all the score sheets for the association. It represented a considerable saving in the administrative costs of lacrosse. So far as helping in sending abroad the international team, sponsorship was of little value.

Government support was more helpful. Government departments serve a whole electorate, and care must necessarily be exercised that no locality or influential organisation receives more than its proper share of such money as is available. Moreover, the political state of Australia is such that two governments; state and federal control citizens. It's unlikely that a state government will vote money for normal activities in other states. It is therefore improbable that a state government will directly support international events that concern more than one state. And this is proved to be the case, the Victorian state government made no contribution to the international tours. Nevertheless it did help lacrosse, together with other sports in many interesting ways. The advancement of sport under the jurisdiction of the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, whose Minister at the time was Mr Brian

Dixon. He persuaded his government to authorise the expenditure of \$212,331. This was divided among 36 sports, which included such sports as the Victorian Little Athletics Association (\$36,000), the Victorian Amateur Basketball Association (\$20,700), the Victorian Golf Association (\$16,720), the Victorian Hockey Association (\$16,720), Whippet Racing (\$100). Whatever we may think of the actual allocations, the problem for the government was clear: there were many worthy causes and limited funds.

The Department of Sport, Youth and Recreation helped in individual ways. For example, the swimming pool created for the Melbourne Olympic Games was at the time regarded as the marvel of modern architecture, but it did not stand the test of time, and leaks developed. It was too fine a construction to demolish out-of-hand, and the Government decided to develop it as an indoor sports and entertainment centre. Lacrosse was among the sports invited to express an interest in its use. It might have served well to develop box lacrosse, which was at this time accommodated at flood lit courts at Williamstown. The Olympic Swimming Pool was centrally situated, and would no doubt have made a convenient venue. Much would depend on the charge made for its use. The building, being so elaborate was unlikely to come cheaply. There is no record of the Victoria Amateur Lacrosse Association showing interest in it, but the offer was made.

The Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation also indicated that it was prepared to support various other forms of potential development. It intimated that grants would be sympathetically considered for:

- (a) A coaching program for players and administrators;
- (b) A coaching class for coaches;
- (c) The administration of championships played in Victoria;
- (d) The appointment of a State Development and Coaching Officer;
- (e) Attendance at national or international championships;
- (f) It was prepared to set up a sports and administration secretariat.

These are very laudable, and there is no doubt that serious weaknesses are found in the administration of many of the less publicised sports, but they did not help much in providing money to send actual teams overseas.

The Federal Government was in a better position to help sporting ventures that transcended interstate boundaries. In 1977 the Federal Government voted \$1,000,000 to help various sporting bodies. Hockey was awarded \$43,800, Lawn Tennis \$40,000, Yachting \$13,000, and Rugby \$35,200. A Confederation of National Sports, representing over 60 sports was set up at a cost of \$50,000, with a full-time director at a cost of \$12,000. Eighty-five out of 115 national associations were assisted. Men's lacrosse received \$16,000 and women's lacrosse \$5,900.

The minutes of the Australian Lacrosse Council record that they received from the Department of Housing and Community Development a sum of \$15,000 for international competition, and \$1,000 towards administrative costs of their overseas ventures. The Australian Lacrosse Council distributed the money so that each member of the official party was reimbursed \$400 for the cost of their fare. \$1,050 was set aside to meet the costs of Western Australian players visiting Adelaide for practice games, and for the final selection games. Thus the Commonwealth Government made a substantial contribution to the tours of 1978.

The experiences of 1977 no doubt brought to the notice of state associations and the Australian Lacrosse Council the growing practice of government lobbying. All the other

expenses, and they were considerable, of sending two teams for competition overseas were made either by the state associations or by the players themselves.

At last preparation, finance, selection, appointments, itineraries and all other details were completed, and the great venture was ready to start. Australian lacrosse was to take its step into the wide world; and at the same time into a world of sport governed by entrepreneurs, governments and player's agents.

The 1978 season marked one hundred years of lacrosse in Victoria being conducted by the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association. There were great hopes that the season would be marked by developments and events worthy of the occasion. These hopes were amply justified.

So much took place that the account of the activities of the association must be subdivided. Of course, everything was going on more or less simultaneously, and subdivision may mask the complexity of matters facing the association. We propose to examine first activities at the base level of ordinary players and clubs. We then may observe interstate matters. Development and expansion may come next, and then the two international ventures. Finally we may consider the phenomena, which were to revolutionise sport, not only lacrosse, of sponsorship and government assistance.

Two contests were staged at the interstate level, the Colts championships in Adelaide and the junior national competition in Melbourne. The Colts championships were won by South Australia with the scores being:

Victoria	19	d	Western Australia	6
South Australia	21	d	Western Australia	8
South Australia	18	d	Victoria	12

At the conclusion of the Championships an "All Stars" team was selected, and consisted of:

T. Magee (WA)	M. Freeman (SA)	D. Doherty (SA)
K. Stevens ((SA)	W. Kent (Vic)	T. Carbone (Vic)
S. Deloose (Vic)	L. Brenton (WA)	M. Hansen (Vic)
N. Taylor (SA)	S. Pike (Vic)	G. Hamilton (SA)
T. Simeone (SA)	R. Deeming (WA)	G. Barclay (WA)
M. Muesse (SA)	C. Johnson (SA)	G. Cornish (SA)
K. Humphreys (SA)		
Co-Captains:	T. Magee	K. Stevens
Coach:	D. Stevens (SA)	

The junior national championships were won by Victoria, the scores being:

Western Australia	15	drew	South Australia	15
Victoria	22	d	South Australia	12
Victoria	18	d	Western Australia	6

An "All Stars" team was selected, and consisted of:

N.Scarvelis(SA)	M. Mitten (Vic)	I. Wookey (Vic)
M. Hughes (Vic)	G. Lee (Vic)	T. Buchanan (WA)
A. Freeman (Vic)	T. Loulatzis (Vic)	D. Millard (Vic)
C. Casserley (WA)	M. Ellery (SA)	H. Rees (SA)
J. Hurion (Vic)	S. Moran (WA)	R. Royans (Vic)
M. Rowell (Vic)	C. Mitten (Vic)	L. Lorian (WA)
Coach:	R.P. Trevaskis (Vic)	

In addition to these championship games the annual seniors game between South Australia and Victoria took place. The match was played in perfect weather on the Albert Ground on 9 July. Victoria took an early lead of 5-0. They could not hold this, and by three quarter time the scores were 8-8. The Victorians then showed their best skills, and finally won a thrilling match by two goals, 13-11. They thus became the custodians of the Symonds Cup.

It will be seen that Australian lacrosse was resilient and active enough to finance its scheduled interstate games as well as finding money to send two teams to two separate international competitions. With all their activities and preoccupations, the VALA never relaxed its fervour in propagating the game.

At this point we should take notice of the progress of the Women's Lacrosse Association. It had been successfully inaugurated many years before 1978, and it had progressed from strength to strength. Its influence in propagating the game was significant. This essay is an account of the foundation of the game in Victoria and its development under the VALA. If for no other reason than to save space it has been impossible to trace the formation, development and influence of the Victorian Women's Lacrosse Association (VWLA). That merits a volume of it's own.

Propagation is ineffective without adequate publicity and sufficient finance. The VALA was only too well aware of these requirements. The delegate of the Malvern club expressed the association's views when he said: "Clubs must develop their own publicity. The club publicity officer's position is a simple job for one person. He must attract local sponsors, and must attract spectators. Sponsors should be mentioned whenever the club gets publicity. Clubs should have an official photograph". We will return to the subject of sponsorship later. It is sufficient here to note that progress and propagation rest on finance and publicity.

For the moment we will observe what the association did, even in this year of vigorous activity, when the traditional aims might have been a little diluted through other activities. First of all, the association maintained its encouragement of lacrosse among the schools, especially technical schools. The Oakleigh Technical School asked for a coaching booklet. It was provided, and in addition Mr Les Goding offered to call at the school and assist in its propagation. The promotional kits, devised and provided by the VALA at no small expense were provided to Fawkner Technical School, Tottenham Technical School, and Westall Technical School on 17 March 1978.

Especially worth noting is that interest was being aroused in country regions. A promotional kit was provided to Horsham High School. A team from Camberwell-Glen Iris visited Horsham to play an exhibition game. It excited much local interest, and was given a good spread of publicity in the "Wimmera Mail", containing pictures and articles (6 November 1978), emphasising that this was the first lacrosse game staged in the district.

The VALA sowed the seed generously, but much of it fell on stony ground. A keen physical education teacher may encourage the game in a particular school or district, but unless there are responsible and keen local people to carry out the duties of administration and publicity the life of the game will be brief. Perhaps the most important of the propagation enterprises was the taking of the game to Geelong. Geelong is a large community, with a

long tradition and love for sport. Moreover, as the "Gateway to the Western District" it has a large hinterland with strong potential for developing the game particularly as the initiatives for establishing the game came from Geelong people. On 7th July 1978 the following article appeared in the Geelong Advertiser:

"LACROSSE IS HERE"

"An offer of assistance from the Newcomb District Sports Club will turn the proposal of a Geelong based lacrosse club into a reality. Howard Michelson and another former Victorian player, John Morrish, are hoping to enter a Geelong lacrosse team in the Melbourne C grade competition next week.

On Monday 31 July, at 8.00pm at the Dinosaur Hotel, Queenscliff Road, a meeting will be held, and anyone interested in being part of the new club either as a player or just to find out more about this sport are welcome to attend."

Geelong Advertiser, 29 July 1978, contained a long article on lacrosse in whichThe, amongst other detail stated: "In recent years in Geelong there has been a growing interest in the game and this year the movers were made to form firstly a women's team, and later a men's team. Response to the moves has been so good it is possible Geelong could be the first provincial centre to have its own competition.... The lacrosse club was formed at the Newcomb and District Sportsmen's Club because of lack of assistance to junior and senior sport in the Newcomb area. The VALA has also assisted to get the game to Grinter Reserve, Coppards Road. The VALA has loaned the men's club gear, and is planning further backing for the Geelong development in the game."

"It would appear that with such local support, the establishment of the game in Geelong would be successful and permanent. The Newcomb club was granted affiliation with the VALA on 20 September 1978."

The Australian Lacrosse Council always retained its ambition to make lacrosse a commonwealth wide game, and there were signs that this vision would be realised. It was already increasing in southern Tasmania, even though the support came more from the women's association than the men's. Perhaps the time when Captain Fearon's ghost could be in peace was not far distant. In Queensland, lacrosse was offered to physical education students as an elective course for third year. Information was requested about "soft" lacrosse. The ALC decided to delegate special areas of responsibility to those states where the game was actively played. Victoria was asked to help Tasmania, South Australia was to support those who were trying to re-establish the game in Queensland, and Western Australia to propagate it in the Northern Territory. New South Wales remained indifferent. The ALC requested all states to provide a list of active past lacrosseurs in each state, or moving to a non-participant state, Queensland, the ACT, NSW, and until recently, Tasmania.

Only raising money could fulfil such ambitions. The VALA, and all other administrative bodies found themselves in the alien world of commercialisation or politically encouraged sport. They must succeed in arousing the interest of sponsors, or of successfully lobbying governments.

To attract sponsors of any consequence, a sport must be able to provide an arena where the sponsor's material could be effectively displayed, and crowds large enough to make a commercial return through the unconscious, or even subliminal observation of the sponsor's material. Lacrosse had neither, except for small local businesses. Heavy sponsorship was unlikely unless active steps were taken to encourage it and only a few businesses

distributed sponsorships as a means of recipients raising money. He who pays the piper calls the tune.

The tobacco industry actively sponsored sport. The company WD & HO Wills stated that there was no evidence that the involvement of the tobacco companies encouraged young people to smoke. Their rather spurious argument was that tobacco advertising was directed to support brand names rather than to promote a product.

Sports coaches, and everybody connected with your athletes know that indulgence in smoking invariably reduced the physical efficiency of athletes, though they could not as precisely explain why. The truth gradually became known, and the Director of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria, Dr Nigel Gray, stated that tobacco companies' interest in sport was obviously directed at the young. "They've bought sport" the doctor said, "and its one of the most effective promotions they've got (The Age 30 May 1978).

Whether the association concurred with Dr Gray's views is irrelevant. What is clear is that not every devotee of sport approved sponsorship. If amateur lacrosse accepted sponsorship as a means of raising money, it must be circumspect as to what firms provided the sponsorship.

Mr Patrick Cheyney, as reported in: The Herald (2 June 1978), stated that during the Confederation of Australian Sports seminar: ".....sport in Europe is looking to private sponsorship rather than government aid because of the tendency of governments to change their mind from day to day. 11.3% of television time is given to sport in Europe. The only growth area in television at the moment lies with sport. Sports on television get most of sponsor's money. Four out of five companies were interested in sports sponsorship and other media exposure, to increase sales and to look good." A sport inviting so relatively few people as lacrosse would be small fry in this pond.

However, some clubs had some success in seeking sponsorship. The Malvern club, in order to attract spectators at the Malvern ground to watch lacrosse, organised in 1978 a letter-box drop in their district. Dollar Sweets of Malvern Road, Glen Iris, sponsored this. The program for the Malvern v Coburg match carried sponsorship acknowledgements by Syer Ford of 173 Burke Road, Malvern; PR Gleed & Associates, Insurance Brokers; Dollar Sweets; Metz Batteries and Lang Signs. The names of these sponsors appeared on programs of subsequent games. Naturally, the amount of sponsorship is not revealed, and it no doubt made a welcome contribution to club funds; but sponsorship at this scale would have little bearing on great enterprises. The CBA Bank provided sponsorship funds for the VALA gymkhana conducted on behalf of the VALA by the Mitcham club. Esanda Ltd provided sponsorship for the match Victoria v South Australia, to which the CP Air Company also contributed. The Mobil Oil Company provided the association with its match report sheets. The A grade grand final carried the names of Pepsi, TAA, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Argonaut, Esanda, Pub Squash, Ranger Truck Rental, and Courage Draft Beer. No doubt other clubs were given sponsorships of one kind or another. But, useful as they were at club level or even association level, the funds earned through sponsorship in 1978 would have had a minor impact on the financing of two international teams. Lacrosse in Australia was only on the fringe of money flowing into sport through sponsorship. If you want to catch big game-fish, you must know where the big fish are, and be supplied with the bait big game-fish will take.

Government as a source of finance and support for a sport is another matter. Governments have been accused of changing their minds, and their support is reliable only for limited purposes at specific times. But we must guard against too wide generalisations. In the first place we are subject to three different levels of government, local, state and federal. Each has its own area of authority, and its own range of constraints. The degree of influence on

sport of local government is not sufficiently recognised. Lacrosse owed its main playing arenas to the support of various local governments. If lacrosse was to increase its numbers, it must gain the use of more playing fields. The development of women's lacrosse increased the demand. Every club owed the use of its playing field, and its upkeep to some council: Malvern, Caulfield, Williamstown, Melbourne – the list is long, and it was increased during 1978.

The Shire of Diamond Valley informed the VALA that it proposed to develop a recreation area of 413 acres, and asked whether the association would require any accommodation. To this they replied that the lacrosse association needed two grounds, giving the dimensions required for a lacrosse ground. Later correspondence (16 August 1978) from the Diamond Valley Shire spoke of "Young's Land", on which the association requested two fields. Whether this is the same land as was previously mentioned in correspondence, or whether this is another area, thereby making four grounds available is unclear. Whatever the case, it shows that the VALA was aware of the real and potential need for playing fields as the game developed.

The contribution made at the state level seems not to have been highly significant. An application was made on behalf of the combined men's and women's associations for financial assistance to appoint a full-time paid Director of Promotion and Coaching. It was estimated that the appointment of a promotional officer, with ancillary staff, equipment, and promotional materials would cost \$30,179. A delegation consisting of Messers D Fox, H Volk and L Goding was appointed to interview the Minister of Youth, Sport and Recreation, but there is no record of any such contribution in the financial statements. It is recorded however, that the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation provided \$440 towards the expenses of the junior carnival, \$2,000 towards the expenses incurred in supporting the interstate Colts and junior teams. The only reference to the position of the Development Officer was the recording of a levy of \$2,400 on the clubs.

We must of course remember that in Victoria there are many minor sports, all clamouring for their share, and a large sum voted to its general coverage becomes a small one when applied to an individual activity. Alas guidelines must be provided so that government funds are not frittered on what should be private or club responsibilities, such as the provision of equipment. Thus, the application by the VALA for a promotional kit was not supported. "The Herald" (03/08/1978) reported that the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation had made a distribution of \$412,065. This sounds considerable, but it was distributed in 45 ways. Eighteen sports received subsidies of up to \$8,500 towards the salaries of directors of coaching, development and promotion. Lacrosse apparently was not one. The need for skilful and determined lobbyists was becoming apparent. Mr Fox was no doubt learning fast. He indicated (18 October 1978) that he would be holding a further meeting with the department to finalise the matter of assistance for a promotions officer. Whatever the intricacies of finance the VALA decided to proceed with the appointment and inserted a prominent advertisement in "The Age" asking for applications for the full-time position of Development Officer for Lacrosse.

Among the guidelines provided to the Australian Lacrosse Council by the Commonwealth Government was that the department would look favourably upon assisting associations in sending teams overseas, or officials to conferences held overseas. Their contribution was the only important contribution coming from outside the Australian Lacrosse Council or the state associations. The Government contributed an amount that provided \$450 for each member of the official party. The Australian Lacrosse Council sent letters to various business concerns seeking financial assistance, but they received only polite replies. The various formalities of appointment of officials and selection of the team were at last

complete, and the team embarked on their journey in pursuit of the greatest prize in lacrosse, the championship of the world. The Australian team consisted of:

G Garnsworthy (Vic)	R Duthy (SA)	
R Walton (Vic)	R Tatlow (Vic)	A Bower (Vic)
T Hardy (Vic)	D Joy (Vic)	B Smith (Vic)
K Daly (Vic)	G Fox (Vic)	S Ellis (Vic)
J Butkiewicz (Vic)	E Jones (SA)	G Johnson (SA)
P Lynch (SA)	D Wright (SA)	R Flett (SA)
N Speck (SA)	W Hobbs (SA)	P Cann (WA)
J Kennedy (WA)	R Turnbull (WA)	J Ballarine (WA)
Coaches:		
J Carter (SA)	A Inglis (Vic)	F Poat (WA)
Managers:		
A Chiron (Vic)	G. Gately (SA)	
Referees:		
D Reyment	M Redfern	

Coaching such a side is complicated. The squad had been in training since November. Lacrosse training involves far more than merely catching and throwing a ball. There are subtle combinations and teamwork, which must be first devised and then practised. Much of this must be theoretical until the team gathers together. The coaches met together under guidance of John Carter. They worked out their moves and counter moves, their drills and their exercises in their home states, the Victorian representatives under Alec Inglis (Vic), the Western Australian representative under Frank Poat (WA) and the South Australians under the chief coach, John Carter. The separate work of the coaches must be unified by actual match practice. To begin to gain this cohesion, the Australian team played against a South Australian team in an exhibition match. A second exhibition match was played in Melbourne, where the team assembled for their final departure. The scores in these matches were Australia 19, SA 7; and Australia 19, Vic 12.

The team could now play skilful and cohesive lacrosse, but they needed the sharpening up that only competing with the best opposition can achieve. They also needed experience of the methods of likely opponents, especially the Americans, who had a reputation of playing not only skilfully but also vigorously. They were considered likely to take physical contact to the limits of the rules, and beyond if they could.

The team therefore travelled to Canada via New York. After delays in New York the team was flown to Baltimore to play a match against an United States College Association All Stars team. They were an even combination containing many distinguished players.

In the first quarter the Australians experienced something of the characteristics of American lacrosse, which consisted of aggressive man-to-man play. However, after the initial shock, the teams settled down, and provided a winning centre field. The Australian team's fitness came to the fore in the second and third quarters. During the last term the Australians showed a worrying element, complacency and lack of concentration. The All Star team took advantage of this lapse, and the Australians had to work hard to re-establish their ascendancy. The Australians eventually won 17 goals to 9. But the end result was not the main thing. Its real value was that it was the first opportunity for newcomers to international lacrosse to experience the vigour of the American style of game. The Australian team then set off for Manchester. They were optimistic about success, believing that the final play-off would be USA and Australia.

They duly arrived in Manchester, where the world championships were to be played. They had excellent billets at Ashbourne Hall, and were lavishly entertained; too lavishly the coach

thought; but they were a national team competing in a world event, and must be prepared to represent their country both on and off the field. Here the supporters group, which had travelled separately from the official group, and whose itinerary had included a tour of South England, joined them. Their perseverance was invaluable to counterbalance the vociferous encouragement given to their opposing teams, which having far less distance to travel, were more numerous.

Before the championship started, officials and coaches met to clarify interpretations of the rules. The result of their deliberations was far from satisfactory and still left players frustrated and bewildered. The opening round on the championship was the match between the title holders, the United States of America, who were considered the most likely winners, and the Australians, who were regarded as the most likely to upset the champions. It proved to be a game worthy of all expectations, neither side being able to open up a commanding lead. Australia suffered a setback when goalkeeper Evan Jones, received a severe blow to the side of his head and had to leave the field. His substitute, Robert Walton, played excellently, but Jones' injury undoubtedly had a psychological effect. The Americans penetrated the Australian defence three times in the third quarter, but the Australians replied with two goals to one. Unfortunately, personal fouls by members of the Australian defence gave the Americans their final lead. The Australians had two further opportunities to score through successful extra-man plays, but they failed to score, and the United States of America won the match by 22 goals to 17.

The Australians felt confident that it was possible to beat the Americans, and hoped that as was generally expected, they would meet again in the final match. The next game was Australia against England. From previous experience the Australians were over confident of winning this match easily; but the English team, having had experience at the international level, had greatly improved. The game was a very physical clash, and the Australians ran out winners by 16 goals to 10. The English supporters, sensing a possible win for their side began a continuous chant, which became almost deafening in the enclosed stadium, and made communication on the field, and from the bench, difficult. A disquieting feature became evident in the Australian game; they had considerably more shots at goal than the English team, of which too large a proportion failed to score.

The third game was between Canada and Australia. Canada was not highly regarded in field lacrosse; box lacrosse was their game. They had surprised everyone by defeating England by 6 goals, but America had annihilated Canada by 28 goals to 4. But the Canadians proved themselves to be quick learners. Against Australia they showed a complete reversal of form and won the game 16 goals to 13. The flaw detected in previous games, that of weakness in shooting for goal proved fatal. Ten shots for no result is a severe handicap. In addition, the Australians seemed to be more bewildered by the decisions of the referees. The Australians gave away 20 penalties in 18 minutes of play, which resulted in 7 goals to Canada. The match would have given little satisfaction to the Australian team, which had set out with such high hopes, and now looked likely to come last. The first and second positions were now clear, America and Canada respectively occupying these positions.

A betting man would have given generous odds on the United States of America coming first and thus retaining its world championship. Their game was skilful and vigorous, perhaps even too vigorous, for after the first match the Australians had suggested that the referees "do away with all this clobbering". The Canadians, brought up on box lacrosse, knew all that was to be known about "clobbering". The principles of the two forms of the game were not so very different, and the Canadians soon adapted their game. The Baltimore "Sunday Sun" (9 July 1978) wrote: "Stan Cockerton's goal, on a feed from Mike French with just 14 seconds left in the second overtime period, completed a Cinderella-like come back and gave Canada a 17-16 victory over the United States for the world championship yesterday. The

victory climaxed a week in which Canada was crushed by the US 28 to 4, and then to come back to upset favourite Australia, 16 to 13 Wednesday, to earn the right to challenge the United States, which was bidding for a third successive world title. Thus, the world championship was full of interest emphasised by the unexpected supremacy of the Canadian team. The final results were , Canada 1st, United States 2nd, Australia 3rd and England 4th.”

The final match, to determine third and fourth places was played between England and Australia. In this match the Australians regained some of their form and defeated England 19 goals to 9. The shooting for goal by the Australians was still ineffective, they having scored 19 goals from 77 shots.

The tour had its successes. The team had conducted itself commendably, won much respect and many friends. The coach made the following recommendations for participation in international contests:

1. That the ALC initiate its planning for the next contest as soon as possible;
2. That in view of the high cost involved, the ALC initiate through the state associations fundraising exercises to help offset future expeditions, in particular, the arranging and conducting of selection trials, and training camps (AIMING AT FULL SPONSORSHIP OF FUTURE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS);
3. That the ALC make every attempt to utilize the experienced gained by the coaches and other officials for future championship teams;
4. That, as previously recommended by past coaches, at least 4 warm-up games be arranged prior to future championship events. It is vital that these games be against international teams;
5. That the ALC initiate moves to invite overseas teams to Australia in years between championships to expose the greatest number of players to international standard lacrosse; and
6. That the ALC recommends and supports the conducting of a training camp at the end of each Australian championship for the dissemination of information and the development of skills and techniques.

The impact of the world championships was well expressed by Rob Klein in the American lacrosse newspaper “In The Crease” (21 July 1978) in an article headed “Great Moments” he wrote:

“Throughout the week at Stockport, England, several of “those moments” hit me saying I was witnessing a great event in the world of sports. Moments when the big English crowd sang “England-England” as their feisty home team nearly pulled off the upset of the games against America. Many of the crowd of 3,500 plus were seeing lacrosse for the first time, especially kids, and they loved the action and the men on the field bringing so much glory to their nation. A common sight in the US is to see kids all over town with lacrosse sticks. In Stockport it’s a soccer ball. But during the games, the sticks were fairly prominent all round the Edgeley Park stadium area. And an uncommon, but thrilling sight for a soccer fan, is to see lacrosse players being mobbed by the young stick fans for autographs. Ask the US players when they get back, how many times they signed their name.

International competition is unparalleled in sports; the flags, the uniforms, the customs, and accents all come into play on and off the field, and bring colour and intensity to the event. There were many significant results of this 1978 world championship besides the games themselves. England has to be the recipient of the most benefits from the games. Their teams, coaches and fans

learned a lot from the US, Canada and Australia in stick work, checking, substitution and exciting lacrosse. England was the most improved team of the championships, although Canada came from way down to beat the US in the final. Possibly the most lasting effects of the world games will be the meeting of people from the four great English speaking "cousin" countries. By vehicle of playing lacrosse, arguing about international rules, who is the best team etc., different ways to "skin the cat" of life were discovered....". After their defeat at the American hands by 28-4 the Canadian coach said: "I don't know if it is worth it to us to participate in a field lacrosse championship when most of our players play box..."."

What is "box" lacrosse? We must now consider this subject in view of the acceptance by the Australian Lacrosse Council to send a team to demonstrate box lacrosse at the Commonwealth Games.

Tom Pryor and Lou Richards collaborated to write an article on box lacrosse in "The Sun" (10 June 1978)

GAME NEEDS HELP

"And so might the players. You don't have to be crazy to play box lacrosse, but it helps. I've seen some tough games in my time, but this one frightens me just to remember.

Basically, box lacrosse is field lacrosse played under ice-hockey rules, except its not on ice. It's simple, really: You're not allowed to clobber an opponent with your stick unless the ball is somewhere in the court. And you can't push him into the wall unless he's in reach. The Canadians like it however, and it will be played as their national game at the Commonwealth Games later this year.

Eighteen players, including fifteen suicidal Victorians, will represent Australia, and I caught the locals training at Tottenham Technical School this week. If it was a "light training", as manager Bill Taylor claimed, I'd hate to see a dinkum match. Six-man teams try to catch a rubber ball in a small net at the end of sticks they wave as clubs and then throw the ball into the big net of an ice hockey goal.

Harold Doerner, the captain of the Australian team, is a physical training instructor at Tottenham Tech. Anyone who wants to see, play, or help the toughest team in Australian sport can reach Doerner there. Money is the big need at the moment, but bandages, stick-tape, and pain killers will be greatly accepted.

The game was first played in Melbourne. It was played at various dance-halls and places of entertainment on week nights, partly to raise money and partly to occupy players. Being played in the winter at the same time as field lacrosse, it lost popularity with senior players, because the injuries suffered during the more or less, social game during the week, reduced effectiveness through injuries, of players in the main game, field lacrosse, on Saturdays. It ceased to be played, except during the junior carnivals.

In the seventies, a band of enthusiasts set to work to revive it, playing it as a summer game, thus keeping lacrosseurs together. It was played at night on two lighted arenas at Williamstown. After a slow beginning it grew in popularity and other states began to regard it with interest.

The Herald (27 June 1978) explained that the box lacrosse team going to Edmonton (Canada) wouldn't be competing for gold. Box lacrosse is Canada's national sport so exhibition matches have been arranged during the Games. When the Australian box lacrosse team arrived in Canada, they created a good impression. In a practice game the Australians were defeated 30-8 by the North Shore Indians box lacrosse team. "Within seconds of the sounding horn to end the game, Mr R M Richards, Chairman, Senior Directorate, British Columbia Lacrosse Association wrote: "...the entire Australian team met at the centre of the floor, turned to the 1,500-2,000 spectators and as a team started to clap their hands. The spectators immediately rose and gave the Australians a standing ovation. Never have I seen a display of sportsmanship such as I witnessed that night, and I am convinced the spectators were of the same opinion."

The composition of the team, which was selected in early 1978, after extensive trials, was:-

Coach	Ken Read
Manager	Bill Taylor
Team	Harold Doerner (Captain), , Graeme Antrim, Ian Barker, Rick Benedierks, Doug Carter, Grant Evans, Norm Haley, Cliff Jennings, Greg Kennedy, Peter Koshnitsky, Tony Lewer, Greg Mollison, Paul Mollison, Dennis Newman, John Nolan, Gary Smithwick, Mark Stephen & Peter Swainger.

It is evident that Australian players had much to learn about box lacrosse. The results of the matches played were:

Match 1 at Vancouver	North Shore Indians	30	Australia	8
Match 2 at Armstrong	Armstrong	17	Australia	14
Match 3 at Prince George	Royals	19	Australia	11
Match 4 at Edmonton	Edmonton Capitals	25	Australia	8
Match 5 at Edmonton	Edmonton Fullers	18	Australia	10
Match 5 at Edmonton	Canada	14	Australia	11
Match 6 at Los Angeles	Orange County	23	Australia	21
Match 7 at San Francisco	North California All Stars	17	Australia	13

It was a physically gruelling trip, with players playing and/or training virtually every day, with long bus trips in the middle. The team was very ably assisted by the BCLA and the CLA, which was a rapid learning experience, and a total rethink required in terms of protective equipment. The Canadians, with their hickory sticks, are extremely skilful, move the ball very quickly, and throw the ball extremely hard!! This is perhaps why it is such a wonderful spectator sport.

There was every indication that box lacrosse would develop in Australia. It was observed at the ALC (8 April 1978) that there were box lacrosse associations in both Victoria and South Australia and they were not under the control of the state associations. It was felt that this should be adjusted, and that the game of box lacrosse should come under the jurisdiction of the Australian Lacrosse Council, which at least de-facto, it was. The ALC congratulated the Canadian association on their magnificent effort in demonstrating lacrosse in one of its forms to Commonwealth nations. A box lacrosse world championship was being planned for 1980, to which Australia had already been invited and had accepted the invitation. The ALC realised the difficulties it must face to assemble a team worthy of real world standards.

There was keen disappointment at the Government's refusal to provide more practical aid to the sport. Thus the one-hundredth season of lacrosse under the authority of the VALA had

progressed from strength to strength. Beginning with a few men throwing a random ball at one another in 1876, the association had been formed. It had been instrumental in propagating the game in all states, in South Africa and Hong Kong. It had seen as unification of the game, so that now it had world recognition, rather than an unimportant pastime played in insignificant places. It had done much to sustain the spirit of amateurism, and incubated the highest traditions of sportsmanship. Australian lacrosse players, wherever the game was played, were recognised as fine ambassadors for their country. Lacrosse had survived the vicissitudes of two great wars and there was every indication that it would become stronger and more influential during the next hundred years.

After all the euphoria of international lacrosse in 1978 had died down, 1979 was a season when Australian associations needed to examine affairs at home. The ALC realising the improvement to the standard of the game, and, from the results, the necessity for further improvement, sent invitations to overseas authorities. These were not accepted, thus leaving the way clearer for re-organisation and development at home.

The most important of these was probably that of box lacrosse. Before the visit to Vancouver for the Commonwealth Games, the Australian view of box lacrosse was primitive. It virtually meant field lacrosse played on a restricted area by reduced teams. In Canada the two games were entirely different. Owing to its cold climate and its relatively short summer, the Canadians had developed the game of ice hockey. Ice hockey rinks and stadia sprang up in all major towns, and a very popular game it proved to be. But there was that summer period, when there was no snow and the ice hockey rinks remained idle. To cover this hiatus, they fell back upon their national game, and modified its principles until they resembled ice hockey more than traditional field lacrosse. It appealed to crowds, for the area was relatively small, and physical contact vigorous. The speed at which the game was played rendered it dangerous, and a range of special protective equipment was devised. It was estimated that the ball flew from racquet to racquet at a speed of 180kmh. Racquets were also modified for better catching and faster throwing. Such was the speed of the game that the rules required a shot at goal every thirty seconds. Some idea of the character of the game may be gained by reading instructions to referees as to the code of signalling the type of rule infringement.

Boarding (minor or major penalty): Referee pounds his closed fist of one hand into the palm of the other. Imposed for cross-checking, elbowing, charging or tripping an opponent in such a way that the opponent be thrown violently into the boards.

Butt ending (major or match penalty): Referee makes cross motion of forearms, one moving under the other. Imposed for jabbing an opponent with the butt of the racquet.

Charging (minor or major penalty): Referee rotates clenched fists one around the other in front of chest. Imposed for running, or jumping into, or charging an opponent.

Cross-checking (minor penalty): Referee makes forward and backward motions, with both fists clenched extending from the chest for a distance of one foot. Imposed for checking with the racquet in a hitting manner.

Elbowing (minor or major penalty): Referee taps elbow with opposite hand. Imposed for using elbow to foul an opponent.

High-sticking (minor or major penalty): Referee holds both fists clenched, one above the other at the height of the forehead. Imposed for carrying or

holding the racquet above the height of the shoulder so that contact with the neck, face or head of an opponent may result.

Holding (a: minor penalty; b: loss of possession): Referee clasps either wrist with the other hand well in front of chest.

(a): Imposed for holding an opponent with hands on racquet.

(b): Imposed if an attacking player pushes off a defending player's racquet with the palm of the hand.

Hooking (minor or major penalty): Referee makes tugging motion with both arms as if pulling something towards the stomach. Imposed for impeding or trying to impede the progress of a player by hooking with a racquet.

Interference: Referee holds arms crossed stationary in front of face, fists closed. Imposed for various reasons.

Misconduct (misconduct penalty or bench minor penalty): Referee places both hands on hips several times, and points to penalised player. Imposed for using obscene, profane or abusive language or gesture.

Slashing (minor or major penalty): Referee makes series of chopping motions with edge of the hand across the opposing forearm. Imposed for impeding or seeking to impede the progress of an opponent by "slashing" with the racquet; i.e., striking with the racquet over the arm or any part of the body without really trying to check the ball carrier's racquet.

Tripping (a: minor penalty; b: penalty shot): Referee extends right leg forward, foot flat to the ground and strikes it with the right hand below the knee.

(a): Imposed for placing racquet, knee, foot, arm, hand, or elbow, or drop in front of an opponent in a way that causes him to trip or fall.

(b): Imposed when a player is tripped from behind while in control of the ball in the attacking zone with only the goal keeper to pass.

Washout (goal disallowed): Referee swings both arms laterally across the body with palm down.

The ALC showed interest in box lacrosse, and received a report which emphasised the following points:

Before the Canadian trip, the style of box lacrosse in Australia was principally field lacrosse played on a box court. In Canada it was quite a different game, and evoked tremendous spectator interest.

Since the Canadian visit participants from several states set about promoting the game and obtaining proper box facilities. The Williamstown Lacrosse Club several years ago built a box lacrosse facility, but it was not of adequate standard or size. An alternative facility was now needed. This would involve having a stadium or hall that could house a box about 65 metres by 30 metres, able to provide spectator space, having good lighting and occupying a central situation.

It was suggested that sponsors should be sought to provide money for the cost of the box and team equipment.

It was likely that the women's association might be interested.

It was imperative that proper box lacrosse equipment should be provided. This would include box racquets, rib and kidney pads, shoulder pads, goalie equipment etc., to ensure participants were adequately protected to allow them to play the game as in Canada.

The game might be organised around four to six clubs, or on a combined team basis. Each team would need 12-20 players. The game was strenuous, and when properly played, 20 players would certainly be needed.

As a beginning the Williamstown box lacrosse committee became the VALA box lacrosse committee. Other states introduced box lacrosse with enthusiasm. The South Australian association approved the expenditure of \$3,000 to establish a permanent facility for box lacrosse at the university gymnasium. The men who had visited Vancouver for the Commonwealth Games proved to be excellent propagandists. In 1979 Australia was the only country outside Canada that played box lacrosse. The ALC retained control of all forms of lacrosse in Australia, so the first interstate tournament was conducted under their general authority. The first box lacrosse championship proved to be a great success. All seats for the Saturday contest were sold. Although few Western Australians had seen the game played, the Western Australian Lacrosse Association entered a team. In the final game South Australia defeated Victoria by 23 goals to 9.

Though in 1979 box lacrosse was in its infancy, those who played it saw that it would rapidly expand and soon become a major area of lacrosse activity. The best and fairest player in the 1979 box lacrosse championship was K. Humphreys of South Australia. Clive Carr of South Australia donated a perpetual trophy for the interstate championship of box lacrosse.

A further variation in the game of lacrosse also came into prominence in 1979. This was "Soft lacrosse". It was adopted largely for the advantage of the women's lacrosse association, and for the introduction of lacrosse into schools. The main difference between orthodox lacrosse and "soft lacrosse" was that body contact was banned. Not all women approved. Some club teams in South Australia and Victoria had allowed women to participate with men, which meant that women competitors could be subjected to violent body contact. Most male players disliked being put in the position of having to apply this type of force upon women. Parents of school children were reluctant to have boys subjected to the full rigours of field lacrosse. Thus "Soft lacrosse" gained significant support. Having three forms of lacrosse active in Australia made the question of championships very involved. It became evident that vital changes must be made in the whole organisation of lacrosse. This was emphasised by the increasing growth of women's lacrosse, by the desirability of attracting sponsorships. The very fact of development tendered to have an adverse effect on administration. For every new club affiliated meant that more delegates attending meetings, and the administration was becoming expensive and top heavy.

As a first step, an analysis was made of the expense of conducting championships on the present basis. This was made on the basis of official parties being restricted to 21 persons. These figures were revealed:

Costs of seniors and Colts:	Venue:	Perth:	\$ 13,891.50
		Adelaide:	\$ 8,418.06
		Melbourne:	<u>\$ 10,077.66</u>
		Total:	\$ 32,387.22
Cost of juniors:	Venue	Perth:	\$ 7,717.80
		Adelaide:	\$ 4,676.70
		Melbourne:	<u>\$ 5,598.70</u>

Total: \$ 17,993.20

Grand Total: \$ 50,380.42

The cost over a 3-year cycle is \$16,793.47pa; or if the cycle is reduced to 6 years, the cost is \$8,396.74pa. These figures do not make allowance for state or federal government funding.

The costs do reveal that the cost of championships per club member added considerably to the costs that had to be met essentially from subscriptions and club efforts. The cost therefore made lacrosse an almost elite game, and club subscriptions beyond the normal money available to young men leaving school, entering apprenticeships, and taking up first time jobs. This would be a significant deterrent in making a boy carry on with lacrosse after leaving school. A re-examination of the frequency of championships seemed called for.

Furthermore, additional rounds of Australian championships in other forms of the game, such as box lacrosse or soft lacrosse would greatly increase the amount of money club members must subscribe. At this stage the championships did not bring in enough income to cover expenditure. The frequency with which Australian championships should be played was certainly one area that needed scrutiny.

The ALC had instituted an enquiry into the way other successful sporting associations conducted their affairs. Arising from this the ALC drew up a statement of its aims, based on those of the hockey association. Among them were:

1. To increase the number of players taking part;
2. To increase opportunities for players to improve their skills and consequently their enjoyment of the sport;
3. To improve the quality of the administration, and thus contain the cost to the average player; and
4. To improve facilities at which the game was played.

It was felt that reformation of administration and structure was the top priority. It was suggested that the Council should be renamed as a board of directors, directors acting during a period of 3 or 4 years. It is obviously impossible for an authority to put into effect long-term policies when its personnel are subject to annual change.

A president should be appointed with tenure of 2 years. His duties would be to act as chairman of annual meetings, and be the senior representative of the sport in all areas. There should be a chairman, whose purpose would be to be to conduct regular meetings of the board, the office to be filled by each state voting every 2 years. There need not necessarily be any rotation of office.

An executive officer should be appointed full time. His duties would combine those of secretary and treasurer, and be given clerical assistance and adequate office accommodation. The executive officer's duties should embrace all forms of the sport. To obtain government support this might lead to an amalgamation of the men's and women's associations.

The board of directors should consist of an unspecified number of directors. They should be appointed from nominations, and only the best candidate available should be selected. There need not be equal representation.

A development officer should be appointed, who should be responsible for the development of the sport generally. There should be a national coaching coordinator, firstly perhaps,

through the association's registered clubs, subsequently through national association panels. A national coaching executive was being considered, but as yet there had been a poor response from the states.

Finance was not at this stage fully considered, but it was fully agreed that all avenues of obtaining financial help, both from state and federal governments should be explored. There was need to examine both short-term and long-term goals. The practicality of raising debentures for financing interstate games was discussed. The ALC had always worked hard to establish the game in other states, and had met with some success in Queensland and Tasmania. They now moved more positively. They supported the introduction of lacrosse in Queensland, on the basis that a fully organised competition be established within 4 or 5 years, with an annual review of the response. As part of the promotion each state association, in conjunction with another, should arrange a social match at least once a year in Queensland and in Tasmania.

A professional promoter should be employed to carry out preparations including attracting publicity, and to conduct "follow up". Investigation should be made concerning the inclusion of lacrosse in teacher training programs in South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and New South Wales. Such a course was already in operation to good effect in Victoria. Pressure should be exerted on governments to support these moves for development. It was suggested that the interstate carnival be staged from time to time in the major capital cities; i.e., Hobart, Sydney and Brisbane. It was also suggested that demonstration lacrosse games could be arranged in various cities during periods of festivity, such as "Moomba" in Melbourne. Each state should be responsible for providing at least one kit of lacrosse equipment for interstate promotion when required. It was suggested that lacrosse be introduced into the leisure activities of the armed forces. Broken Hill had, not so long ago, maintained a successful lacrosse club. It was suggested that this city might prove a fruitful ground for development.

Among the response from delegates was that data should be collected from the most successful recruiting clubs in the country (not necessarily lacrosse) and compile a "Guide for Recruitment" for issue to all lacrosse clubs. They also suggested that there should be established of a full-time, professional development officer in each state, the duties of one of whom should extend to the Australian Capital Territory. The need for concerted efforts to maintain the impetus of the development of lacrosse in other states was emphasised by reports coming from Tasmania and Queensland. The first initiatives in Tasmania had been promising. Many schools had enthusiastically adopted it, but the difficulty of maintaining the interest of school children so that they progressed to adult clubs was a phenomenon only too well known in all states. The stalwart for development in Tasmania had been Mr Lane. He now seemed discouraged, and indicated to the VALA that he now lacked the time and resources to continue development in Tasmania. This was sad news, and Mr Goding volunteered to see Mr Lane to ascertain what could be done to help.

From Queensland the report came that active interest was being shown in lacrosse among women but that little activity was evident among men. The ALC decided that further action in Queensland should be deferred.

Steady and wise pressure upon government began at last to become effective. The Commonwealth Government made the following offer:

\$1,000	General administration costs
\$2,000	Coaching projects
\$4,000	International competition in Australia
\$1,000	International meetings
\$1,000	Development projects

In addition they made forward commitments of \$10,000 towards international competition overseas.

In Victoria, the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation made a grant of \$15,000 to be used as follows:

\$9,000	Director
\$3,000	Information structure
\$1,000	Coaching and instructional programs
\$500	Courses for coaches
\$500	Participation is "Sport for All"
\$1,000	Men's and women's championships

As a result of these grants, at a cocktail party on the 6th March 1979, Mr Brian Dixon, Minister for the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation announced the appointment of Mr Don Miller as development officer. The remaining portion of the salary was to be met by the association, as well as such things as workers compensation, superannuation, office space and equipment, transport, administrative costs, secretarial and administrative support and opportunities to attend all relative meetings and conferences. This meant that for the first time lacrosse would have its own address, storage area for equipment, and a retail shop. Henceforth the official location of lacrosse would be Lacrosse Victoria.

The shop was opened on Friday 11 May 1979. It would carry a full range of equipment, including men's Brine and STX sticks, gloves, helmets, balls etc. For women it would carry English and American sticks. The address was 21 Waverley Road, East Malvern. The slogan on the shop was "Run by lacrosse for lacrosse". To have its own premises, rather than to conduct meetings, store equipment and archives in private homes was a great step forward. The men's association and the women's association co-operated in this development, the directorate consisting of Messers Phil Humphreys and Bill Taylor and Mesdames Mary Weatherill and Sue Carroll, and the promotions officer, Mr Don Miller.

The second potential source of funds and sponsorship began to add its quota. The president of the VALA in his address to the annual general meeting emphasised that sponsorship was a contract between sponsor and the authority being sponsored. The association and clubs must repay in kind any sponsorship agreements. The appointment of the development officer was already having a dramatic effect on sponsorship. Many sponsors were connected with individual clubs and it lay with the province of clubs to attract such support. Hudson's of Caulfield, a Toyota dealership, was the major sponsor of the Caulfield Lacrosse Club. The Mobil organisation provided all the necessary score sheets. The CBA made substantial contributions towards the 1979 championships, and Pub Squash Pty Ltd donated refreshments. In South Australia sponsorship was given by Gambit Direct Sales, Chess Equipment Specialists, Qantas, TAA, Attenborough's Sports Store, CBA, STX sticks through the North Park Sports Store, Don Gorman jeweller, and M&V Rollerdoors.

It is worth noting that the Victorian lacrosse magazine began to grow in its influence. The South Australian association decided to combine its magazine with the Victorian publication. This suggests that in due course the magazine might have Australia wide circulation. This is a tribute to Terry Allington who had worked hard in its initial stages.

In spite of these momentous events, the normal things for which an association exists had to be carried on. Few people realise the immense burden that falls on a few shoulders in the conduct of the normal club fixtures. Critics are usually numerous enough but the work of individuals must be carried out. Fixtures must be drawn up, referees rostered, malefactors disciplined through the tribunal, decisions made about weather, availability of grounds must

be ensured, score sheets supplied. There is more than enough work to go around, and in spite of the preoccupations with major reorganisations, and with interstate championships and international fixtures, the 1979 season was successfully carried through.

In addition to the association club matters, the full roster of Interstate matches was carried out. Here again, a great deal of administrative work goes on behind the scenes. Money must be raised, officials appointed, training squads and teams selected, and then an arduous course of training and coaching undertaken. The selection tests took place as early as 6 May. As the Championships were to be played in Melbourne, two teams had to be selected, the official Victorian team, and the President's team.

The results of the interstate championship were:

South Australia	12	d	Western Australia	11
Victoria	20	d	Western Australia	11
Victoria	19	d	South Australia	2

Thus Victoria successfully won the treasured Garland-McHarg Cup

The amount of publicity given to the game increased significantly during 1979. Much more space was given to the game in the newspapers. Television coverage of the national championships was regarded as the best ever. A commercial segment featuring lacrosse was given daily exposure for some months. Pre-game forecasts were given over 3LO radio station. The lacrosse magazine flourished under the direction of Mr Terry Allington. Many men gave devoted service to the welfare of Lacrosse in 1979, not least of whom was Mr Bill (WL) Gray. He was honoured by being elected a life-member of the association.

At the end of the season it had long been the custom for some clubs to exchange annual visits. The most ambitious of these was that of the new club, Newcomb, to tour England. Although no great international fixtures provided high-lights to the season, it may well be recorded that the 1979 was one of the most important in the history of lacrosse. It successfully entered into the new world of finance by sponsorship and government assistance. If this support could be maintained the horizons of the game would be immensely widened. This season also sees the development of two new forms of the game, box lacrosse and soft lacrosse. The latter may sound insignificant, but from a view of recruitment, it simplified the introduction of lacrosse into schools, for it meant that boys and girls could play together. The later step into the men's code and the women's code could easily be made when the time came for children to leave school. The establishment of an organised headquarters, with its own premises, its own full-time staff and its full-time development officer and coaching officer was perhaps the greatest development since the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association had formed in 1878.

The season of 1980 is notably simply for the change in administration brought about through the increase in numbers of players involved, the effect of government assistance, and the advancement of the Victorian women's association. This history is that of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association, and space does not allow us to develop the story of women's lacrosse. That requires a volume to itself. A brief account of the development of the game as played by women will be of interest, and perhaps disarm criticism implying bias.

In England, a women's association was formed in 1912. Schools, colleges and clubs affiliated with it. The Scottish association was formed in 1920, the Irish and Welsh in 1930. In 1931 the United Women's Lacrosse Association was formed, largely through the influence of a number of English teachers who were working in America. The Australian Women's

Lacrosse Association was formed early in the 1960's. Their first international match was played against a team in the United States and Great Britain in 1969, and the first women's touring team was sent abroad in 1972. A schedule of tours is now set up to include Australian women's teams in international competition every three to five years.

Within Australia, South Australia was the first to establish a women's association, which it did in 1961. The Victorian association was established in 1962, and the first Australian women's championships were held in 1962, when South Australian women matched it with their Victorian opponents. The Victorians proved superior, and took home the Shaw Trophy.

Western Australian women set up their association in 1965, and formed in a three-cornered contest against Victoria and New South Wales that year. The Tasmanian women's association came into being in 1977, and sent a team to Adelaide. They visited Perth in 1979, and acted as hosts to Victoria and South Australia in 1979. From these achievements it is evident that Australian women's lacrosse was active in three states, and must be included in the thinking of any Commonwealth government's disposal of funds. State government sporting portfolios also must take heed of the requirements of women's lacrosse, to the benefit of lacrosse in general. (Historical details from "Lacrosse 1900, programme of matches").

As we have seen, both the Victorian and the Commonwealth Governments made considerable amounts of money available to lacrosse. One result of this in Victoria was the setting up of a director of lacrosse, with adequate accommodation and support. It is therefore pertinent to assess the effects of this appointment.

The immediate effects were unspectacular, but the cumulative effects as the seasons passed by might be quite another matter. The immediate increase in registered players was small, and much the same as in previous seasons. The number of registered players rose from 653 to 668 in 1980. It had long been realized that the players registered with the association represented only a proportion of those actively engaged in lacrosse, such as members of schools and colleges. Much advance had been made in the contribution made by the physical education staff of various schools, but the problem of bridging the gap between physical education classes and lacrosse clubs had yet to be solved. It must be remembered that school boys and girls were involved in many sporting activities, and were more readily attracted to such sports as football, athletics, tennis and golf as their winter activities. The schools were the accepted recruiting ground, and such success as might be achieved in the schools must be reflected in the expansion of the sport at the post-school end.

In support of the traditional strategy of the Association, one of Don Miller's presentations was to arrange visits to schools. In a report presented at the May meeting of the Committee of Management he presented a list of 80 schools which had been visited with the intention of making them aware of the suitability of soft lacrosse to schools, and the desirability of lacrosse in its various forms. In all he listed 78 schools. He estimated that 7,500 school children had been exposed to lacrosse since 1 March 1979. Many of them were sufficiently impressed to buy equipment, 27 buying soft-lacrosse equipment, 14 hiring kits, 3 bought field equipment and 4 hired it. An interesting point is that this seems to be the first time independent schools had been included in the propaganda net eg. Firbank, C.E.G.S., Lauriston Girls School, Methodist Ladies College, Kew, St Joseph's College, St Paul's College, St Catherine's Girls Grammar School and Scotch College. If the V.A.L.A. strategy was valid, an effort of this magnitude should produce spectacular results. Rural schools were also visited in many parts of the state.

There was much other activity directed towards recruiting. Under the heading of "Lacrosse Victoria" a paper was issued suggesting means of forming competitions among boys and

girls. It was directed at clubs, schools and other organizations hoping to increase active interest in lacrosse. The suggestion was that the district club (or other authority) should take the game to the primary schools in their locality. The first approach should be through the teachers of physical education. If possible, the school name should be used, thus giving the activity a name, and possible use of the school playground. This avoids the problem of transport. As a last resort the players could rendezvous at the club ground or some other location convenient to three or four schools. As soon as possible the interest of parents should be aroused.

The best form of the game was "soft" lacrosse. The use of a hard ball might lead to injury. Also, both girls and boys could play "soft" lacrosse, simplifying the question of numbers. A uniform would be an advantage, giving school teams an identity. If necessary, patches or bibs would be sufficient.

Detailed information concerning marking grounds and the general rules were given. The document emphasized that all should be given a reasonable share of playing time. Sitting down as spectators is attractive to few, and there is always a tendency among children for the talented few to be given more than their share.

Suggestions were made of combinations of teams according to numbers available. Certificates of different colours could be given to players as an incentive, according to how their skill improved. There would inevitably be some costs, and advice was given as to how they might be reduced to a minimum and how the money be raised. A suitable programme was suggested for the conduct of a local primary school competition.

It was a practical, sound proposition pioneered by the Surrey Park Lacrosse Club, and the schools involved were the Box Hill, Eastmont, Kerrimuir and Verdale primary schools. Unfortunately no information is available concerning the spread of the movement or its effect on recruiting at high school level. But it is a worthy example of the endeavours of the promotion and development officer of lacrosse to stimulate interest in the game.

Many other projects were either proposed or put into practice. An Easter camp for boys and girls was proposed and the details work out, but it was not carried through because of lack of response. Summer camps were conducted at the Burnside Camp, Anglesea, 11-16 January for beginners (boys and girls 12-14 years) and 18-23 January for advanced players, boys only 14 years and older.

At the interstate level, matches were played according to the roster set down by the Australian Lacrosse Council. In 1980 the Colts and the juniors were to compete for their national championships in Perth. The results were:-

Colts Vic 23 v S.A. 6
W.A. 20 v S.A. 7
W.A. 20 v Vic 14

Thus Western Australia became the champions of Australia at Colts level.

Juniors Vic 15 v S.A. 10 (Victoria therefore held the Schultz Cup)
S.A. 19 v W.A. 8 (This gave S.A. the Wiles Cup)
Vic 24 v W.A. 11

Victoria became the custodians of the Turnbull Cup and champions of Australia at the junior level for 1980.

The international events in 1980 were light, consisting of a visit to Australia by the Rutgers University in field lacrosse, and a visit to Canada by an Australian box lacrosse team to compete in the first international box series.

But before proceeding to the details of these fixtures it may be wise to study the affairs of the Australian Lacrosse Council. This body was originally set up to control lacrosse in the Commonwealth by organizing interstate matches, by trying to bring uniform rules to the Commonwealth, and to deal with such matters as concerned more than one state. However, before it had been long in existence, international lacrosse began to gain impetus. The Australian Lacrosse Council did much of the pioneering work of international lacrosse, and revived such organizations as already existed overseas to stimulate them to action. By 1980 international lacrosse had become a reality, arranging and controlling the game at an international level became a complicated undertaking, when travel arrangements had to be made and accommodation found. There was a feeling among some members of some state associations that the format of the Australian Lacrosse Council should be altered and brought more into line with accepted business practice. This is best demonstrated by an open letter promulgated by Mr Phil Humphreys, President of the Australian Lacrosse Council. It read "At the next annual meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council a proposed change of administration structure will be decided. Delegates and A.L.C. members have for the past 18 months been discussing this issue as many feel that the present constitution and structure is outdated, and not able to handle the rapid growth that lacrosse is presenting enjoying. The present system allows that on 3 people (One delegate from each state) are able to make any and all decisions. This has led to delays in many areas. The time and effort to receive votes before being able to reach a decision, not only delays that decision, but adds a great deal of work to the already heavy load of the secretary. The Federal government and the Opposition parties both support the fact that national sporting bodies need the services of a full time administration if that sport is to grow and be successful. The time is near when lacrosse will require these services. Our present structure is cumbersome and relies solely on the time and effort the three delegates are able to give to the job. History has proved that usually the delegates are heavily involved in their own state associations and their time is limited.

The proposed administration would call for a director portfolio system, with selected persons being in control of certain areas, except for major policy decisions, these being decided by the full Council. The Council would consist of the directors, elected by the States, and one delegate from each state. Our present system was designed to make sure that each state remained equal in power (one vote each). I believe that if we continue with such a narrow outlook our game will stagnate and all the problems associated with the past years will continue".

Thus we may see that lacrosse in Australia was approaching a decision point. It might either accept the new and up to date organization, and progress, or it might remain fixed in its tradition and fall into a decline. For the moment, there were two international fixtures to be dealt with. We will first consider the visit of the team from the Rutgers University. The visit had been pending for two or three seasons, so chronologically it had the advantage over the box lacrosse tour. Rutgers University was highly regarded in the American Colleges Association, and was given the accolade of being able to style itself on a U.S.A. team. Its association with Australian lacrosse organizations was comparatively long, and always cordial.

The great advantage of international competition is the opportunities it gives to citizens of one country to discuss the concerns of its own activity, and of things in general. The sympathy between Australian administrators of lacrosse and those of America and Canada is a strong testimony, if not a cause, of the swing in political affairs away from Great Britain and towards the United States of America. It is true that when Australian teams visited England, they were treated with the more generous hospitality, but the English regard for international visits seemed lukewarm. This warm sympathy was illustrated by the response to a questionnaire presented to their coach Tom Hayes, sent by Terry Allington for publication in the Victorian Lacrosse magazine.

They were as follows:-

Q1: What is the greatest growth area in the States ie Juniors

A: The greatest growth of high school lacrosse (ie Under 18) seems to be in the up-state (Syracuse, Ithaca) New York area. Not only has there been an increase in the number of players but the quality of the play has been exceptional. The coaching level of excellence still seems to be centred on Long Island. The Long Island High School coaches seem to be the real innovators in the game. At the college level the top teams, Hopkins, Virginia, etc, still seem to dominate strategy changes in the U.S. The administration of U.S. lacrosse still seems to be under the guidance of the U.S.I.L.A. as the overall controlling body. The club associations have taken a great interest in the international level of lacrosse.

Q2: What impact or value is derived from a regular world series?

A: The regular world championship has given our organization a focal point to rally round for all levels of USA lacrosse. The separation of high school, College and club lacrosse does not offer a common event to rally behind. We have found World Championships have given us that event, which has helped tie together all our levels of lacrosse. Now that the world championships are well established it has become the top rung of the ladder for a U.S. lacrosse player.

Q3: Australia has participated in three world series. Why haven't they advanced? Is there any one particular reason?

A: My feelings on Australian results in world championship play is the lack of new players coming into the championship team. The U.S. A. will very rarely have people playing on club level more than 5 years. We seem to be able to draw from our youth for international competition more so than Australia. Australia has demonstrated superior coaching, administration, etc. So it is my opinion that a major effort to have the younger players more involved would be beneficial.

Q4: Has Australian domestic lacrosse improved since your last visit in 1974?

A: Having had a few opportunities to see age group games in 1974 and again in 1980 I feel there has been a major increase in ability, techniques and equipment in the present game. I am always impressed by the dedication and loyalty shown by all levels of Australian lacrosse. There is a proven ability to produce a well-conditioned fundamental lacrosse player in this country.

Q5: Will box take over from field or can we marry the two together?

A: I don't feel that box will ever take over from field – it is my opinion that they are two entirely different sports with different technique involved. I think box can supplement the field game and has a place in the sport. If the two can co-exist it will be a plus for the sport because basically the players love both games. It will be interesting to see if the U.S. coaches who for the most part make their living in the field game will feel threatened by box lacrosse.

Q6: Discipline is a strong point in U.S.A. lacrosse teams. Does this stem from good coaching in their initial entry in lacrosse?

A: I would agree this is true. As stated earlier most U.S. coaches are paid professionals, thus the failure or success of their programmes is directly proportionate to their philosophy on the game. It has been proven that success in team sport requires discipline in the approach to the sport by both player and coach. As our players are introduced to the sport under this philosophy they are completely in tune with the discipline and can accept it. They might not always agree with it, but realize it is necessary for success.

Q7: If you were national council in Australia what would be your first three priorities?

- A: 1 – tryouts for the team without any politics.
2 – 2 months training with games against top sides.
3 – International competition prior to the world series.

Q8: Is lacrosse over-ruled? For instance, if you took a member of the public to see a lacrosse match would you find it difficult to explain all the rules to a new comer?

- A: Yes – unfortunately it is the fault of the coaches who are constantly trying to take advantage of the rules, thus causing rule adjustments.

Q9: There is a set of international rules laid down. Why is there such a hassle between nations before the series starts?

- A: Because no country other than Australia is playing their national game under international rules. However, most people who have witnessed games under these rules love the game. It is very hard to change people who have been playing under a set of rules for a long period of time or don't feel that the rules help enhance the sport in their country.

Q10: Coaches in Australia appear afraid to congregate together and exchange ideas for the advancement of the sport. Does this occur in America?

- A: No. We have numerous clinics where ideas are exchanged on new developments in the sport. This is to help the new coaches in their programmes and introduce new training techniques to help better the sport. As this is done on all levels of sport in the U.S. A. it is quite natural for it to be done in lacrosse. It all comes down to having good players anyway.

This exchange of views shows a spirit of cooperation, a mutual respect for the opponents, and a devotion to sportsmanship that made lacrosse unique in its position among national sports.

The Rutgers State University of New Jersey entourage consisted of:-

Jill Apel	Statistician
Claude (Chuck) Apel	Defence
Bill Brown	Attack
Larry Collins	Midfield
John Desko	Defence
Andrew Eastwood	Midfield
Peter Feinerman	Midfield
Bill Fisher	Goalkeeper
Jay Gallagher	Defence
Vincent Hayes	General Manager
Tom Hayes	Coach
Kurt Kuchte	Midfield
Marty Malinow	Goalkeeper
Paul Miller	Attack/midfield
Dave Mulhern	Midfield
Bob Oken	Attack
Jim O'Hare	Attack/midfield
Scott Selnik	Defence
Tom Sweeney	Attack
Mark Tyree	Midfield
Peter Dorne	
Brad Short	
James Peterson	
John Fadden	
Earl Peterson	Team Doctor

The Victorian team that opposed them on the Albert Ground on August 17 was Peter Morley, Ray Tatlow, Otto Middelhuis, Brian Smith, Colin Barnard, Doug Carter, Steve Ellis, Ross Freeman, Dennis Newman, Bill Stahmer, Graham Fox, Gary Tillotson, Bruce Freeman, Robert Walton, Ken Nichols, Gregor Garnsworthy, Geoff Robinson, Ron Twomey, Alan Bower, John Butkiewicz, John Hunter, Bill Kent, Dennis Trainor (Coach), Alan Datson (Asst coach), Ted Clayfield (Manager), Joy Clayfield (Physio) & Peter Strapp (Statistician).

The itinerary for the Rutgers University tour was:-

Saturday August 16	– 3.40pm arrive Australia
	8.00pm Billets met at Malvern Lacrosse Club
Sunday August 17	- 11.30am Welcoming luncheon
	2.30 pm Match – Victoria vs Rutgers University
Monday August 18	Free
Tuesday August 19	Bus trip to Healesville Sanctuary
Wednesday August 20	7.30pm Australia vs Rutgers University
	10.00pm Presentation function
Thursday August 21	12.30 pm Depart for Adelaide
Saturday August 23	S.A. vs Rutgers University
Sunday August 24	Australia vs Rutgers University, then depart for Perth
Monday August 25	W.A. vs Rutgers University
Tuesday August 26	Australia vs Rutgers University

The results of the matches played were as follows:-

Rutgers 6	v	Victoria 24
Rutgers 12	v	Australia 22
Rutgers 16	v	South Australia 12
Rutgers 9	v	Australia 22
Rutgers 22	v	West Australia 9
Rutgers 9	v	Australia 17

The Rutgers University party left Australia having won universal respect, and made many friendships. The season of 1980 is not so very long ago. There are no doubt many veterans who can look back on those happy times with pleasure, and still feel a glow of pleasure in remembering their gracious opponents.

The other international event concerned box lacrosse. This branch of the game was making good progress, and at the Annual General Meeting (28 November 1979) it was resolved that more details should be recorded in the annual report, and even in the monthly transactions the information is scant. At the meeting of the Management Committee (19 December 1979) it was reported that a state team of 20 players had been selected for the February Australian Championships in Perth. Box lacrosse was now active in the 3 southern states and the 1980 championships were held at a purpose built, albeit temporary facility, at Wanneroo, was well managed and promoted, and included TV coverage by Channel 9.

The Australian team to participate in the All Nations tournament in Vancouver was selected after the national box lacrosse championships in February 1980 as follows:-
 Graeme Antrim, John Bellarine, Peter Brown, Les Buchanan, Tony Carbone, Robert Carter, Terry Denton, Steve Ellis, Kevin Humphreys, Allan Jennings, Mark Jennings, Peter Koshnitsky, Phil Kestel, Max Madonia, Doug Mildren, Glen Revell, Derek Swingler,
 Coach – John Nolan
 Manager – Bill Taylor
 Asst Mgr – Rob Pettit

Given the short amount of time and spread of the team, training was undertaken in the respective states by designated leaders up until the team coming together in Melbourne in July 1980.

A newspaper cutting untitled and undated, taken from an American source, states:-

NATIONS CUP BOX LACROSSE SET FOR VANCOUVER, VICTORIA

The first world box lacrosse championship series for the Nations Cup will be held in Victoria, Vancouver next year, the B.C. Lacrosse Association said Tuesday. The Association said the championship games and the series will be played on July 17 in Vancouver.

Official sanction for the tournament was given this week at a meeting of the International Lacrosse Federation in Baltimore, Md. The meeting was attended by Ed Lindstead of Vancouver, President of the B.C.L. A. and Brian Davies, President of the C.L.A.

Linstead said the tournament will be a round-robin series involving teams from Australia, the United States, Canada East, Canada West and an all North American native Indian team.

Canada East and Canada West will be represented by club teams. Lindstead said teams from the Western Lacrosse Association will compete for the Canada West berth, with a format to be worked out later. No further reference to the world series box lacrosse is to be found in the records of the V.A.L.A. however the historian for the Australian Lacrosse Council has noted the scores of the various games as follows:-

Canada East 15	d	USA 10
Canada West 16	d	Native Warriors 9
Canada East 25	d	Australia 7
Native Warriors 15	d	USA 6
Native Warriors 26	d	Australia 4
Canada West 9	d	Canada East 7
Canada East 19	d	Native Warriors 18
USA 16	d	Australia 13
Canada East 20	d	Australia 7
Canada West 18	d	USA 7
Semi-final		Native Warriors 13 d USA 9
Final		Canada West 16 d Canada East 11

The most valuable player of the competition was voted to be Dan Wilson (Canada West).

Australia still had much to learn about box lacrosse. Not only does the smaller area mean that the movement of the ball is extremely rapid, but the use of the walls against which the ball may be thrown is in ice-hockey or squash adds another dimension. The speed at which a lacrosse ball may be propelled is incredible, resembling that of the fastest serves in modern tennis. A report in the "The Sun" of Friday August 29, 1980 stated that John Butkiewicz could stand on the Williamstown pier and ram a lacrosse ball through a port hole in the Empress of Australia. If this was true, the accomplished lacrosse player showed pin point accuracy as well as high speed. The article states that lacrosse players could propel a ball the weight of a cricket ball at a speed of 200 kmh. In active play this flying ball must be dexterously caught, and then delivered to the next player at a similar velocity. With the ball travelling at that speed, the pass must be judged to the metre. A blow from such a flying missile could inflict a severe wound. When these speeds, difficult enough to control in field lacrosse, are exploited in box lacrosse the game seems to surpass the speed of light. Box lacrosse was comparatively new to Australians, but it was the main game in Canada. Australian players must benefit by the revelation of the Canadian play in this international series.

The 1980 season, important though it was for its own events, was vital in the history of the game. It was poised between success and failure, retrogression leading to extinction or progress leading to its reception in Victorian sporting circles as an important unit. The injection of funds into it by governments meant that ambitious policies might be introduced, and in the course of time, great things accomplished.

The strategies applied by the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association were unlikely to bring immediate results. The emphasis was to be placed on propagation in schools. This had previously been rigorously encouraged among secondary schools, from which an almost immediate response to recruitment to clubs might be expected. The moneys and energies expended in taking the game to primary schools would show little influence for at least five years.

On the surface of it, lacrosse in Victoria seemed to be running into a serious decline. There was a fall in the number of registered players of 58, following as it did steady but small increases since 1974. This might have been a one-off result, or there may have been other contributing factors not revealed in documents; but if the fall continued at this rate for any length of time it would be a serious matter. There were other signs of lethargy. The General Secretary in the annual report stated that Committee meetings were generally well attended, but there was an undesirably high proportion of absent delegates.

This resulted in much inefficiency, when delegates absent from a previous meeting tried to have the Committee rescind motions passed at that time. The Visits Committee, so important a branch of the administration when interstate and international events were to be undertaken, could obtain no nominations. The Presentations Ball, admirably hosted by the Melbourne University Club, was not as well attended as the Committee of Management might have hoped. Some clubs fell far short of their quotas, and one club had no representatives at all, though some members of that club were trophy recipients. It certainly seems that the Association was in need of fresh inspiration, and more imaginative people at the head of the Administration.

And this was the problem to be faced by the new Directorate, Lacrosse Victoria led by the full-time Promotion and Development Officer, Mr D. Miller. He acted as delegate to the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation; the political portfolio responsible for allocating grants to such bodies as came under its jurisdiction. As we have seen, the policy of the Directorate, Lacrosse Victoria, was to continue its policy of taking lacrosse into schools, a task to which Mr Miller devoted himself untiringly and successfully.

The first task was to find people who would bring the game to the notice of school children. The obvious source of such supporters was the Physical Education system in the schools. This had its effect, but we must remember that the children were exposed to many other sports during a course of physical education: that is the nature and purpose of the course. Physical Education teachers could not concentrate solely on lacrosse. Moreover, for most of them lacrosse was not their personal sport, and their own individual expertise and interest lay elsewhere. The work of the Physical Education teachers needed the active back-up of clubs, and it was evident from the pennant results that those clubs which actively supported the schools programmes were the most successful in pennant results. Lacrosse Victoria therefore tried to lock clubs into a three year plan, publicizing under the slogan "Where is lacrosse going?"

So far as the schools were concerned, Mr Miller's indefatigable work was bringing tangible results. Thirty-five schools were visited during the season. These included country high schools, such as Colac, Shepparton, Derrinallum. In-service sessions were held at 27. These schools included primary schools, high schools and independent schools. They included suburban schools and country schools such as Colac High School, Derrinallum

High School and Shepparton High School. The interest among the schools was shown practically. Thirty-five schools hired Soft Lacrosse equipment, others purchased equipment from Lacrosse Victoria or school suppliers. This year saw the first inter-school Soft Lacrosse competition.

This was played at the Croydon Leisure Centre, five schools from that area competed in both the boys and girls sections. Mitcham High won both sections, but the high standard of the other schools was encouraging.

The rapidity with which lacrosse took on in the schools was amazing. In 1981 it was decided to adopt the principle of zoning in Victoria. There were initially four zones, for convenience sake designated North, South, East and West. The clubs appointed to the zones were:-

Northern: Glenroy, Coburg & Eltham

Southern: Chadstone, MCC, Malvern & Caulfield

Eastern: Camberwell, Mitcham & Surrey Park

Western: Footscray, Altona & Williamstown

The schools scheme and the other responsibilities connected with lacrosse Victoria entailed much clerical work, and it was found necessary to employ a person part-time to attend to the office duties.

There is no doubt if the propagation in schools was adequately followed up by clubs, the sport would make rapid increases. Lacrosse Victoria envisaged that as school boys and school girls achieved dexterity and skill, field lacrosse would be introduced to give the higher class performer or the elite athlete something higher to aim at, and eventually become the pinnacle of lacrosse from the wide base of soft lacrosse. Following seasons will reveal whether the V.A.L. A. showed sufficient imagination and will to exploit the initial achievements of lacrosse Victoria to the full.

The signs were promising. The annual report stated that junior registrations with the V.A.L.A. were 608. Then there were many juniors in schools who conducted their various competitions, district, house and soon with the association's help, but whose players did not need to be registered.

One problem was the loss of potential players at about the under 19 group. Perhaps the Association would need to modify its tactics to retain a higher proportion of players.

The domestic season in Victoria in 1981 was similar to that of 1980. The same system of grading was used. The Elimination Cup contest was again organised as was the Junior Gymkhana. Interest was stimulated in matters concerning lacrosse in general by regular issues of the magazine, thanks to Mr Terry Allington.

The interstate programme of the Australian lacrosse Council was effectively carried through. The contests set down for 1981 were the Senior Championships, to be held in Adelaide and the Junior Championships in Melbourne.

There seemed to be a certain complacency about the Senior Championships among the Victorian players. The coaches and selectors were a little embarrassed when a significant number of named senior players failed to attend selection trials. Whether this was reflected in the result is a matter of conjecture but it is a matter of fact that Victoria was defeated at the championships for the first time in three years. The Victorian team started well by defeating South Australia 17-14.

Western Australia then defeated South Australia. South Australia defeated Western Australia 17-11. Victoria was therefore in a good position to win the championship. When

they played Western Australia the Victorians were in the lead after the end of the first half, but the Victorian side was unable to match the stamina and skill of the Western Australians, and at the end of the game were beaten 17-11. This meant that Western Australia won the championship on percentages.

There were satisfactions to be derived from the Championship. By defeating South Australia, Victoria retained the Symonds Cup. For the Western Australians, there was even greater satisfaction in their win. This was the first time Western Australia won the championship outside their own state. Steve Ellis, Greg Garnsworthy, Peter Morley and John Butkiewicz were Victorians selected in the All-Star side.

In the Junior championships Victoria did very well. The juniors defeated their South Australian opponents by 16-6 and the Western Australian opponents by 24-6. They thus retained the Mal Taylor Cup. S. Tester was nominated the best and fairest player.

The inter-varsity matches had not been held for five years, and it may be taken as a sign of development when they were played again in 1981. The universities were an important element in all attempts to propagate lacrosse. The results of the contests were:-

Monash 27 d Adelaide 15
Monash 18 d Melbourne 10
Adelaide 20 d Melbourne 8

No Western Australian universities competed. The contest for 1982 would be hosted by Adelaide University.

Box lacrosse, after a slow start, made significant progress during 1981. This year the games were played indoors at the Hawthorn Community Centre. The playing area was a little small, but the facilities were excellent.

Under the management of Rob Pettit, on behalf of the V.A.L.A., and with a committee consisting of P. Mollison, R. Benedierks, G. Mollison, J. Nolan and R. Pettit, a competition containing 4 teams consisting of the Renegades, the Redbacks, the Seagulls and the Eagles. It was decided at the meeting of the box lacrosse sub-committee (31 August 1981) that players should register as box lacrosse players in the box-lacrosse league under the guidelines of the V.A.L.A. The fees for box lacrosse players should be \$6, first year players \$3. The teams would not be those of any single club, but more from zones of clubs. The renegades would be drawn from Footscray and Altona, the Redbacks from MCC, Camberwell, Chadstone, Melbourne University and Caulfield, the Hawks from Mitcham, Malvern, Williamstown, Eltham and Surrey Park, the Redmen from Glenroy and Coburg. The names of "Hawks" and "Redmen" were then tentative. An age limit of 16 was set.

The rules for box lacrosse being substantially different from those of field lacrosse, the training of referees had to be undertaken. Messrs Bill Taylor, Robin Traeger and Blair Freeman were invited to establish a pool, in addition to one player from each team. A film was coming from Canada, and a clinic for referees was to be held before the beginning of the season. It was recommended that the V.A.L.A. purchase a trophy for competition between the box lacrosse teams. It was evident that box lacrosse had come to stay, and not only in Victoria, for the management committee meeting of 15 July 1981 decided that registration fees for box lacrosse players would be paid to the Australian Lacrosse Council.

The faith of lacrosse administrators in the success and permanency of box lacrosse was demonstrated when the V. A. L. A. applied for the use of the reconstructed Olympic Swimming Pool to stage the World Championships of box lacrosse in 1984. At the Victorian box lacrosse sub-committee meeting of 16 November 1981 it was decided to name the box lacrosse premiership cup the "Read Cup", it being thus named after Ken

Read, the first Australian box lacrosse coach, and one of the initial organizers at Williamstown. Rob Pettit and Greg Mollison were deputized to obtain quotations for the price of the cup. Rob Pettit was to attend to the trophy engraving.

The total registrations at that time were:-

Mohawks	7 first year; 7 seniors
Redbacks	13 first year, 8 seniors
Redmen	15 first year
Renegades	4 first year, 15 seniors
Total	39 first year, 30 seniors

At the meeting of the Victorian management committee 12 December 1981 the box lacrosse management reported a successful season, with a surplus of over \$1,500. The interest in box lacrosse was increasing in the other states.

A South Australian report (21 January 1981) – an active competition of eight teams played regular matches, some of whom had played the game in Canada. It was much to the credit of the South Australian box lacrosse association that they would be the hosts of the Australian box lacrosse championships. South Australia became the first box lacrosse team to win the interstate premiership, which it did comfortably by defeating Victoria 25-6. Though the game had been introduced to Western Australia, that state failed to compete in the first box lacrosse championship of Australia in 1979.

The members of the Victorian box lacrosse team were:- R. Gregson, N. Barnard, M. Jennings, T. Lewer, R. Ansell, M. Madonia, M. Trickey, G. Mollison, J. Hanniver, P. Mollison, G. Raeside, R. Benedierks, D. Mollison, N. Haley, G. Antrim, J. Vazzoler, K. Hyde, S. Delooze, M. Sverns, J. Nolan (Playing coach) & R. Pettit (Manager).

In spite of all of the activities and changes of 1981, and the preparations for important fixtures in 1982, three international contests were played in 1981, one overseas and two at home. We will deal with the overseas tour first. In itself it was a new departure, for the members of the touring team came from the Colts division, that is to say, players under 19 years of age. Such a tour could present its own difficulties. Boys of this age are prone to throw off the constraints of school. They are for the first time in their lives allowed to use alcohol like and with men. It would be a brave and wise man who undertook the responsibility of such a group. Fortunately, Australia had such a man in Mike Hilsberg. In his report in the lacrosse magazine, he explained that the American boys came from the U.S. High School competition, which has a maximum age of 18. The facilities available to the American boys were excellent. Some schools had full-time trainers and locker room staff. Lacrosse was taken seriously, with schools having a junior varsity as well as the senior team. The J. V. teams receive as much training, competition and development of players as the first teams. By the time the juniors reach the senior team the skills and teamwork are already in train.

The main difference between the American and Australian teams arose because any touring side (euphemistically call All Stars in America) took a little time to develop understanding between individuals and developing teamwork. These sides raised in cohesive institutions developed better self discipline and team discipline, which the U.S. displayed both in set plays and general skills. The individual skills of the young Australian layers were quite up to the standard set by their various opponents.

The first game was against Gilman College. The Australians had some difficulty in growing accustomed to American rules and interpretations. Gilman is ranked number 1 in their high school competition. They held a big lead in the first half, but the Australians did better in the

second half as they adopted to the American rules. Nevertheless their defeat amounted to a land-slide, 57-22.

They began their second match better. Against the Boys Latin they led at the end of the first quarter. Inexperience took its toll in the second quarter and the Australians gave away far too many penalties. At the beginning of the second half the Australian attack began to function better. The improvement continued in the last quarter, until only one goal separated the teams. The Australians, largely due to inexperience in defence, where many penalties were incurred, and the Boys Latin at last won the game by 12 goals to 11.

The next game, against Penn Charter, suggested that the Australian boys were becoming acclimatized. They led early and then Penn Charter applied some of the rougher aspects of the American game in an attempt to force the Australian defence into errors. They were unsuccessful in doing this, and the Australian boys were much encouraged by winning by 8 goals to 3. Other games were not reported in full, but the Australian camp felt they had not done badly by achieving a 3-3 result.

Boys are full of fun, and Australian humour may be a little heartless. Nevertheless, the visit showed a considerable misunderstanding of Australia and the Australian way of life. The Australian boys set about mesmerizing their opponents when not on duty with apocryphal accounts of things Australian. There were killer koala bears dropping from trees with fatal interest. The kangaroo taxi service was the best in the world: nowhere else could you catch a kangaroo to work. It was evident that much still needed to be done to educate Americans as to where Australia was, and what sort of society existed there. Government money devoted to increasing understanding and empathy well spent. Mike Hilsberg's concluding paragraph stated "One thing all the party would agree is that the friendship and hospitality displayed by the American families with whom they stayed, was first class, and at times unbelievable".

The international visitors to Australia were the Coquitlam Adanacs. They were a distinguished group, having won the nation's box lacrosse championship in 1980, the Mann Cup.

They toured South Australia and Victoria in March. They played close field lacrosse games in South Australia, and met a powerful Victorian field lacrosse team under lights at Olympic Park. In the field game, they showed indifferent form, being beaten by 23-9, however, being a Canadian team, field lacrosse was strange to them. Box lacrosse was their game, in which they showed their skill to advantage, winning by 22-9. Their speed, skill and general adroitness were a revelation to those Victorians who witnessed the game. There was a good attendance. The visit of the Coquitlam Adanacs gave a great stimulus to box lacrosse.

The teams representing the two sides were:

Adanacs – Greg Thomas (Goal), Mario Govorchin, Jim Aitchison (Capt), Mark Valastin (Asst capt), Moe Jodoin, John Gordon, Jim Northey, Art Hazel, Dave Shillington, Steve Labeau, Dave Cochrane, Ray Mattinson, Randy Delmonico, Wayne McCrawley, Gord Quilty, Frank Neilsen (Asst Capt), Randy Bryan, Dan Wilson, Mike Reelie, Tim Kelly, John Lewis (Goal), Bob Salt (Coach), Soehn Gill (General Manager), Bob Glen (Team Manager), Eric Geddes (Trainer).

The Victorian team was as previously listed.

Of the second international group to visit Australia little detail is available. The minutes of the Committee of Management of 15 July 1981 record that for the Oxford University trip the Melbourne University ground was booked for the 12th & 15th September. All other arrangements were in hand. There seems to be no record of the games played.

If this fixture was carried out it might have been the precursor of great things. Australian overseas visits were largely American oriented. A balance was needed between European lacrosse, mainly in the United Kingdom. If Australia had been able to establish a lively relationship with England nothing but good could have come of it. The Americans might be persuaded to temper the wildest of their rules, and the UK associations might have emerged from their self-imposed isolation. Even the political climate of the times discouraged strengthening of ties between the UK and Australia. The world championships of 1982 would show more clearly in which direction international lacrosse was moving.

Coming events, they say, cast their shadow before them. The event coming in 1982, was the world tournament to be played in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The shadow it cast tended to obscure other movements with effects in the long run, even more far reaching.

In 1982 the VALA might need to rethink its basic strategies. For instance, in spite of the extraordinary success of Mr Miller's work with schools, the number of clubs and of registered players had not significantly increased. There were probably more unregistered players, but the time the numbers of boys and girls playing lacrosse in the schools than there were registered players in the Association. It was already evident that few boys and girls between 16 and 19 years of age, who had been exposed to lacrosse in schools, went on with the game. To demonstrate, the statistics given in the annual report for 1982 reveal that in 1974 there were 15 clubs; in 1982 there were only 14. In 1979 there were 653 open age registered layers; in 1982 there were 618. The junior registrations look better; in 1982 there were 672 junior registrations; in 1981 there were 608. All sorts of conclusions may be drawn from statistics, but there can be no doubt that the flood of new players expected from the strategy of taking lacrosse to the schools was not bringing the anticipated results.

Many reasons were advanced for this failure to increase the number of players of adult lacrosse. The most common was the reluctance of club officials to become committed to the schools. It was all very well for Mr Miller and the physical education teachers to introduce lacrosse into the schools, but physical education teachers are birds of passage. They may remain in one appointment for 5 years. It takes longer to build up an effective administration for a club. Most club officials were sufficiently occupied in looking after the affairs of their own clubs. The strategy of taking lacrosse to schools worked very well, both in the number of players introduced to the game, and in the number of new localities where lacrosse at school level could be observed. But it seems that rarely this interest in lacrosse led to the formation of new clubs. It would seem that the strategy needed extension. It was like some wars recently fought; they failed because the advancing armies were halted at an imaginary line very much short of victory. The VALA might need to advance beyond the 39th parallel.

Another aspect not often considered was that lacrosse was becoming an expensive game. Children were ready, even anxious, to play the game all the while school or some other authority met the cost. But when they left school at sixteen, they needed to be frugal with their diminutive wages. Let us see what was involved.

This meant about \$1,221 for each club. Clubs varied in numbers. For a club of 39 players (MCC) this meant that about \$31 per player had to be found. For a club of 62 players (Williamstown) \$19 had to be raised from each player. This was before the player had paid for one paper clip, or one lacrosse ball or any of the other expenses involved in running an individual club. In addition to this it was estimated that it took about \$200 to kit out a lacrosse player. These amounts may not seem large, but for a lad of 16 it takes a noticeable proportion of his income. Moreover, he is at an age when there are many other calls on his small means. One does not intend to imply that these charges were unnecessary or exorbitant, but that they might well be a factor in decreasing the number of potential lacrosse players coming from the schools. If a club had a policy of junior membership, then senior members had to pay more. The money had to come from somewhere.

Finance would not be the only cause. In all sport, relatively few players take much active interest after leaving school. The problem is to overcome this indifference. For these reasons, the bases of a sound lacrosse community needed to strengthen their base, and thought needed to be given to future strategy, which the euphoria of the world carnival tended to obscure. As this was the great event of the season we will leave dealing with it to the last, and, like charity, we will begin at home.

Excellent competition was shown in the home and home games in spite of the absence of many of the best players. The 8 team format was retained in all sections. Instead of the Elimination Cup competition being played in the middle of the season, a lightning premiership was played before the premiership competition began.

The matches were of good standard. In support of the VALA's recruitment strategy it is to be noted that Williamstown had long shown its interest in schools, and its winning of the three most senior premierships and the lightning premierships certainly showed other clubs the way to go.

The evenness of competition was shown even in the voting for the best and fairest in the various divisions.

Thus an effective domestic season was carried through. The importance of this should be noted, for it showed that the VALA had sufficient resources in spite of the absence of many leading players and officials at the world championships.

A problem which perpetually plagues the Association was the matter of referees. Refereeing is always a thankless task, and abuse of the referee is pastime inseparable from Australian sport. But, as in all activities, there are good referees and incompetent referees. The VALA's first problem was that an insufficient supply for past players offered themselves as referees. The shortage was made up by representatives of clubs deputized for the task, and usually undertaken with reluctance and a minimum of experience. The Development Officer conducted seminars and courses for referees, but they were poorly supported. In an attempt to raise standards, referees were graded after due examination. Lacrosse had become a more complicated game, and the play was checked by two referees. This in itself provides a difficulty: the two referees must cooperate with one another, take up positions so that conduct in front of as well as at the back of play could be supervised. The fact that the standard of refereeing was not unanimously approved is testified to by cases when referees were subjected to verbal abuse and even by physical violence.. For the smooth running of competitions and for the general enjoyment of players it was imperative that state associations and the Australian Lacrosse Referees Association did what they could to improve standards. The referees report stated that "the improvement in referees as a whole has improved. There were 8 referees in the top category. Referees supplied by clubs were sometimes unsatisfactory, weak players uninformed in the rules being too often assigned the task".

The report quoted two circumstances that needed attention; one was the hitting of the ball carrier when the opponent was behind, and the other was a player being knocked over after he had thrown the ball. It was pointed out that these offences escaped penalty too often. The advice was given that the trailing referee should watch what happens to the ball thrower, and not where the ball goes. That is the province of the leading referee.

The work of the Promotions and Development Officer continued on the lines of 1981. The competition in zones for under 12 players was working well. Lacrosse was gaining strength in schools in metropolitan and country areas. All physical education teachers were attending the lectures given by the Promotions and Development Officer. To try to bridge the gap between school lacrosse and club participation, the Promotion and Development Officer

drew up a report on junior recruiting. This was given to all delegates. Lacrosse Victoria had moved to new premises, and was now located at 13Willesden Street, Hughesdale.

One of the propositions latent on the books was the provision of a permanent playing headquarters for the Association. The time was ripe for such a consideration. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works was in the process of establishing a protective green belt around Melbourne. It was making land available to very reasonable rates for organizations to develop as regions of high land development and low building occupation. Sports complexes had been erected, for example, on the Yarra Flats adjacent to Bullen Road, and schools, Caulfield Grammar School and Haileybury College had established branches at Wheelers Hill and Keysborough respectively. Land could be obtained on very economical terms but there seems to be no record of the VAKA or Lacrosse Victoria making much attempt to capitalize on the decisions of the Board of Works. There were general possibilities of attaining a playing headquarters for the lacrosse association. (20 October 1982).

Nevertheless, the interstate programmes were successfully carried out in spite of the absence of leading players and officials. If some of the stalwarts were unavailable, others came forward to take their places. Thus, when nobody responded to the request for members of the Visits Committee to provide hospitality for and arrange the under 19 interstate carnival,, the Caulfield Club undertook the responsibility. As Victoria was the host state it had to provide two teams, and the officials needed to run the carnival. Obviously the absence from Victoria of some state league players had little effect on the under 19 side.

The minutes of the management committee reveal that the Caulfield Club incurred a deficit of \$535.54. As the association had requested the club to conduct the carnival, the committee decided to reimburse the club.

The results of the colts championships were:-

Vic 30	d	President's 14
SA 20	d	WA 10
President's 17	d	SA 16
Vic 29	d	WA 9
President's 18	d	WA 17
Vic 23	d	SA 14

Thus both the Victorian team and the President's team defeated the teams from other states.

The strength of Victoria's junior lacrosse was again demonstrated. The Victorians won all three games, thus winning the championship, defeating WA 25-10, The President's 22-2, and SA 20-13. From these results one might deduce that the work done by Lacrosse Victoria, and its director, Don Miller, was having a beneficial effect, at least at junior levels. The ALC had decided that the senior championships should be put off till the return of the players from overseas. The preponderance of Victoria in the junior teams was not reflected in the senior tournament, for which the results were:-

SA 20	d	Vic 13
WA 20	d	Vic 12
WA 23	d	SA 9

So Western Australia won the championship, with South Australia second and Victoria a humble last. Victoria had at least the satisfaction that R. Tillotson was voted best and fairest.

If so too soon to pass judgment on the Victorian strategy of development, but coming last does not suggest that up till this time at any rate the emphasis on juniors was producing champions.

The main drift of this section is to emphasize that in spite of the number of players involved in the World contest, and the amount of energy and money expended on the mounting a worthy team, lacrosse at home was fully carried on.

Lacrosse in Victoria is generally taken as meaning field lacrosse, but in 1982 at least three other forms of lacrosse were in existence, each with its own rules and conditions, and each more or less flourishing.

The first of these variants was box lacrosse. In Canada it was the national game, field lacrosse having fallen almost into disuse. It rose to popularity in the attempt to make use of the ice-hockey rinks left idle in the summer time. By 1982 box lacrosse players had formed a regular league. Its season was to start at Footscray and Hawthorn on the 28 September. An interstate box lacrosse game was arranged between SA and Victoria, Paul Mollison being appointed coach of the Victorian team. Five teams took part. The teams were composite groups drawn from neighbouring clubs. They consisted of: Renegades (Footscray and Altona), Redbacks (MCC, Chadstone and Melbourne University), Redmen (Glenroy and Surrey Park), Mohawks (Mitcham, Malvern and Williamstown) and Cobras (Caulfield, Camberwell and Eltham). The minimum age for players was set as 16 years. The fees to be paid to the VALA were \$8, and \$5 for first year registrations. Players should have played a minimum of 5 games with a team to be eligible to play in finals.

Few of the best players in the state league took part in box lacrosse. It was a very fast and rough game, and the risk of injury was great, but it had considerable spectator appeal. The South Australian team provided superior at the interstate level, winning the three games played.

The box lacrosse tour to South Australia left something to be desired in the standard of conduct shown by some members of the team. The tribunal was directed to investigate all allegations, and to impose penalties where necessary as soon as possible. The tribunal acted firmly with strong penalties inflicted on 7 players. In spite of these failings, box lacrosse prospered, and its members did much for the game.

One such service was the popularising of a new variety of lacrosse, known as soft lacrosse. It was first devised to introduce school children into the game and diminishing the risks of injury. Parents are reluctant to see their children involved in activities that may be considered dangerous. Teachers, too are reluctant to be responsible for activities leading to possible injury and litigation. The Development Officer therefore devised the "soft" variant of the game.

On 7 January 1982 the Renegades box lacrosse team submitted a letter to Terry Allington for inclusion in the lacrosse magazine. It outlined a proposition for the establishment of a soft lacrosse competition, to be conducted at the Hawthorn Recreation Centre. There would be 8 teams, and the letter implies that the demand might be brisk. Team lists were required, 10 players only, male or female, from 15 years up.

The Renegades volunteered to attend to all administrative details. The expense would be a \$2 registration fee to the VALA or VWALA, and \$2 entry fee at the door of the Hawthorn Centre every week. The game would consist of 5 players on the floor at any one time, unless on penalty.

There would be no goalkeepers, but a 600 mm goal. Soft lacrosse was strictly a non-contact game, therefore no stick checking was allowed. An imaginary sheet of glass separated the defender and the ball carrier. This prevented the defending player from leaning over the ball carrier. A soft ball would be used.

A dangerous shot at goal that strikes any part of the defensive player is penalised as a "follow through". The ball may not be held for more than 4 seconds or 10 steps. There must be 5 passes before a shot on goal. All players must wear the same colour uniform. White soled runners must be worn (This no doubt was a regulation of the Hawthorn Centre to protect their floor from scuff marks rather than an Association rule).

There is no record of how this venture succeeded, but its rules give some idea of the way soft lacrosse was played, and how well it might suit school children.

There is no doubt that much activity was carried on by the VALA and its subsidiaries while the great event in the lacrosse world was being carried out. It is now time to relate the details of the World Cup.

In previous international tours raising funds was a major task. The sporting world by 1982 had entered into the era of sponsorship. The task of financing the team was made easier by sponsorships from STX Australia, lacrosse equipment manufacturers. At the completion of the national titles in Adelaide STX announced that it would sponsor the Australian team to the world championships by \$8,000 (Sun 30 April 1982).

The long process of selecting an international side and officials was duly carried through. Travel arrangements, as a result of previous experience and cooperation between ALC and TAA were efficiently managed, the supporters group organized and all preparations were completed.

The team chosen comprised:

P. Morley (Vic), R. Tatlow (Vic), K. Nicholls (Vic), P. Cann (WA), M. Meusse (SA), R. Walton (Vic), G. Fox (Vic), R. Duthy (SA), C. Johnson (SA), J. Butkiewicz (Vic), W. Hobbs (SA), J. Russell (SA), J. Bellarine (WA), J. Kennedy (WA), T. Magee (WA), P. Lynch (SA), T. Hardy (WA), K. Humphreys (SA), G. Garnsworthy (Vic), M. Ballinski (WA), G. Tillotson (Vic), S. Ellis (Vic), M. Haddad (Vic), A. Inglis (Head coach), D. Trainor and J. Carter (Asst coaches), M. Redfern (Manager), G. Gatley (Asst manager), Mrs J. Clayfield (Physiotherapist).

There were redoubtable champions of old mixed with newcomers. All were confident that they would do well. Of all the officials, Mrs Joy Clayfield, merits special mention. In those days of segregation of the sexes it was something unique to have a woman holding such a position in men's teams. Her contribution to lacrosse was expressed in an article in the Melbourne Herald (20 March 1982). "Joy, one of the boys".

Then follows a portrait over the caption "Joy Clayfield third overseas trip with the Australian lacrosse team". Groups of players loitering furtively around dressing room doors have become the norm among the Australian lacrosse team. It is more than likely they'll be guarding the door of their physiotherapist, Mrs Joy Clayfield. "They really protect me, especially when there is a shortage of female showers and toilets", the team's first female physio said today. "I'm used to getting funny looks from caretakers now – in Toronto a couple of Canadian players walked in once and said "What's she doing here?" One of the Australian boys said "She belongs here, you don't".

Joy, a lecturer in rehabilitation at Lincoln Institute, leaves with the Australian team to compete in the World Cup in Baltimore in June. She had been a state team physiotherapist since 1972, and this will be her third overseas trip with the Australian team.

"I'm fairly well accepted by the team now. They take me out to nightclubs and tell me their problems – I suppose I'm a bit of a mother" said Joy. "I'll be giving them massages before the game and one will be turning green with nerves, and will be a bit cheeky and one will be telling you about his love affairs. They really do need a sounding board". Joy, who also

worked with the Australian women's team, said the men had regarded her as a "bit of a nuisance" when she began the job. "They'd never had a girl before, and there was some animosity to start with", she said.

"When I did hear comments I'd never say anything and I had to count to ten a couple of times. I was always in the way in the changing rooms, and some felt they shouldn't swear in front of me, which they resented". "The only time guys would talk to me was when they were injured. I really had to make friends with them".

Joy said she had tried to persuade the team to wear shorts in the dressing rooms in the early days of the job. "But then there would be a rush or a sudden injury, and it never really worked" she said. Joy said huge attendances were expected at the World Cup.

"They built a new stand for \$11,000 for the Cup and they're selling box seats which work out at \$10 a night per person. You wouldn't get away with charging \$2 here," she said.

A self-confessed lacrosse enthusiast whose husband and son both played, Joy said she found it difficult keeping quiet during a match. "If you're standing that close to officials they can penalize the team by taking someone off" she said. "You've got watch out what you say about the referee: In America once an official told me if I didn't shut up, they'd pull someone off". I can never sit down, but I've learnt to keep my mouth shut".

The world should be informed about this pioneer of women's liberation.

As a testimony to her work for men's lacrosse the VALA recommended her for the certificate of merit of the ALC.

To return to the activities of the Australian team, as in previous occasions, they were to gather in Melbourne. With such a composite team the training in tactics, set plays, and stick work had to be first carried out by the assistant coaches in the various states. A rehearsal for the full team was then carried out in Melbourne against the Victorian team that would represent the state in the senior championships. The result of the game showed the potential quality of the Australian team, the Herald 8 June 1982 stated: "The Australian lacrosse team defeated a Victorian squad 20-6 at Olympic Park last night, but the World Cup side's performance was not impressive". They played a pretty scratchy game but they'll be paying for their mistakes with a 2 hour run today. But the boys haven't been together as a team since Easter, and half of them have never played under lights, so they can only improve".

The 23 man Australian side leaves for the U. S. tomorrow and will spend 10 days in Boston training and playing top U.S. teams, before leaving for Baltimore., Maryland and the World Cup, which starts on June 18".

There was much to be done in the 10 days spent in Boston. Not only had the twenty or so individuals had to have their skills brought to the highest quality possible, they also had to be bound into a single unit, a team, in which each player knew exactly what was required of him. Endless drills and exercise, had to be devised, and then applied in match conditions. Fortunately, the Australians already had many friends in Boston, and there was little difficulty in arranging practice matches.

Another area of lacrosse administration which the Australians must master was the interpretation of rules, as interpreted by American referees. The championship was to be played under the rules devised and approved by the International Lacrosse Federation. In fact, none of the competing nations conducted their own games according to the International rules. Australia came nearest, but it was only to be expected that referees accustomed to playing games under their own rules would interpret the international rules after their own manner. And there were wide discrepancies. Canadian rules were those of

box lacrosse. They had almost had to re-learn field lacrosse from the base. England lacrosse was played under the rules governing the game before the international code was drawn up. All sides, therefore, had to become acquainted with some new aspect of the rules, and the interpretations of them by referees brought up in their own traditions.. The ten days spent in Boston were none too long, and the Australian team had to be transported to Baltimore. By now it was hoped that the interstate jealousies that plagued practically everything done in Australia had been erased, and an Australian team had arisen.

All the other countries had a similar problem. In America, most lacrosse was played among the universities. This meant that the players were young, extremely partisan and the game played under every financial advantage. There were also clubs, formed largely of university graduates, and other enthusiasts who might be attracted to it. A proper balance needed to be kept between these two associations, and justice must be seen to be done in selecting an "All-America" team.

Canada too was sharply divided, but on a different principle. There was East Canada and West Canada, both with strong professional box lacrosse competitions, and neither very much interested in the field game. Moreover, Eastern Canada contained the former French colonies, whereas Western Canadians came from Great Britain and Scotland.. As we have seen in recent Canadian politics, relations between the two sections of Canada were far from cordial. To create a single team from such diverse elements must have been difficult.

To manage this the Canadians developed two separate national teams, and in June 1981 teams from Canada East and Canada West were brought together for a one week training camp, from which the team Canada 82 was chosen. Advisor Bobby Brown stated that choosing the 1982 national team was one of the hardest decisions of his life.

In England, the game was first introduced in 1867. It struggled for some years, and in 1875 the first club was founded at Stockport. Other clubs came into being, the game being concentrated in the London area. At the time of the 1982 World Championships lacrosse was divided among the North of England Lacrosse Association and the South of England Lacrosse Associations. The English selectors were therefore in a similar situation – The English team must be fairly selected between members of the two associations. The English squad was drawn from 11 clubs. They too had to be welded into a single unit.

At last these carefully chosen teams descended upon Baltimore to compete for the World Championships of 1982.

The Americans spent what would have been considered by other nations a mint of money on staging the championships. The organisers determined on an enterprising plan for raising sponsorship. The task of implementing the scheme was given to Mr Elmer Wingate. The World Games Committee cast a budget which revealed that \$300,000 would be required. Wingate decided to organize various levels of sponsorship. First six corporations would be approached with a proposition which gave them the title of "Flagship Corporations". For a contribution of a minimum of \$25,000, the sponsor would receive, among other considerations, a full-page advertisement in the official World Games program. These six flagship sponsors were found, and thus more than half the budgeted amount was raised. The remainder was to come from more minor sponsors, ranging from World Class (\$5,000) to Patron (\$50). In fact the budgeted amount was over-subscribed, the total reaching \$326,000.

This Australian team must have been the unluckiest in the number of injuries various players sustained.

The World Championships were to be played on the synthetic surface called "Astroturf". Many advantages as synthetic surfaces have, playing on them is quite different to playing on

grass. Shoes suitable for grass fields are different for those used on synthetic surfaces, such as astroturf. After much discussion it was decided that players should use shoes of the brands of Nike Astrograbbers or Nike Orienteers.

The first practice match in Victoria was played on astroturf at the Hockey Stadium at Royal Park. Players expressed themselves happy with the shoes.

When the team arrived in Boston they found the characteristics of astroturf very different from here in Victoria. After two training sessions, players complained of soreness to knees and ankles.

The first try-out was against the Brine lacrosse Club. The team played well and enjoyed the stiffer opposition. But the Australian misfortunes began. Tom Hardy suffered a broken arm during the game, but the serious nature of the injury was not discovered until the team arrived in Baltimore.

The accommodation at John Hopkins University in Baltimore was excellent, but the condition of the astroturf was again different. Spongy on top but hard underneath, it was found to be very jarring on the legs after long spells of practice on it.

The the World Cup matches began. The first match was against England, whose team put a great deal less pressure on the Australians than had their practice opponents. The Americans proved themselves to be both technically and tactically superior to the Australians, and won the game 23-10. Australia's second misfortune occurred: Ray Duthy, the South Australian champion, badly tore his medial ligament. He was unable to take any further part in the series.

The next game was against Canada. This was a very closely contested encounter. Half way through the third quarter Canada was 4 goals ahead. Position changes in attack were effective, and at the end of the last quarter Australia had won 24-18. This recovery from apparently certain defeat so stunned the spectators that they rose and gave them a standing ovation – 9,000 spectators all wildly excited, shouting, clapping and cheering only as Americans can do.

A third blow then struck the Australian team. Jeff Kennedy complained of feeling unwell. The cause of the illness was difficult to diagnose and Kennedy was taken to a specialist. A recurrence of a previous heart problem had occurred. The specialist stated that it would be dangerous for Jeff to play in the evening. There was a 90% chance that all would go well, but a 10% chance of him dropping dead on the field if he over-exerted himself. Who could avoid over-exerting himself when playing in the final of a world contest. The Australian attack had to be reorganized, and the number of resources seriously depleted.

The final was played on the Friday evening. The Australians, by their courageous win over Canada had aroused great interest, and 11,500 spectators crowded the stadium. The American team proved too powerful, and won the game by 22 to 14. During the final the Australian team suffered another serious injury. Ray Tatlow badly tore a cartilage, which incapacitated him from the rest of the game. The cartilage had to be removed before leaving the East Coast of America.

This sad account of injuries does not take into account the minor injuries and illnesses which invariably afflict a touring side. They are always prone to suffer a number of minor ankle and hamstring disabilities, for which a close schedule and a minimum number of reserves does not allow enough time for complete healing. Then there are always minor infections to throat and digestive tracts, which, while not severely dangerous, are debilitating, and reduce a player's efficiency. Abrasions from astroturf that become infected also cause problems. The

list of injuries and disabilities provided by Mrs Joy Clayfield throws some light on the situation.

This is not to imply that the team that won the World Championships was not the best team in the world, but the home team has its advantages, as no doubt the Americans would discover when their turn came to visit Australia.

A mysterious element creeps into the account of the 1982 overseas tour. A minute occurs (17 March 1982) of the VAKA meeting which states that the "Kookaburra tour of the USA in June 1982 was discussed re problems of an unofficial tour leaving Australia. The delegate to the ALC was directed to advise the ALC of the concern of the VALA and to advise the USA Association of this concern."

Apparently little notice was taken of this concern, but the tour, either with or without the approval of the ALC did take place. In Mr Inglis' report we may read the following: "In reference to the Kookaburra tour, it was unfortunate that upon their arrival at Baltimore their advertising billed them as an Australian team for the games they were playing in the area; they also used our official tent to sell their wares".

In Mr Trainor's report we read "Re the Kookaburra tour, I feel that while the competition they played against can only improve their skills, it does interfere badly with the local competition. If the tours continue, it should not coincide with any official Australian team away at the time, should contain up and coming young players, go under guidelines as laid down by the AKC, and be fully answerable for any misconduct or activity that could affect the image of officially selected touring teams".

Evidently something untoward and discreditable had taken place. There may be more to be said about this tour. I therefore leave a little space in case Terry Allington wishes to add a few lines.

Page 28, listing matches and times has been omitted.

The results were:-

Australia 25	d	England 5
USA 23	d	Canada 12
USA 23	d	Australia 10
Canada 26	d	England 8
Australia 24	d	Canada 18
USA 26	d	England 9

3rd v 4th playoff Canada 20 d England 19

1st v 2nd playoff USA 22 d Australia 14.

The Australian team returned home, beaten but by no means disgraced. United States officials claimed that the team they had selected was the strongest team ever to represent the USA. This claim proved to be no exaggeration. To run second by them was no mean achievement.

Jeff Kennedy (Australia) was voted the best and fairest player of the series. J. Butkiewicz and P. Cann from among the Australians were selected in the world team.

After the excitement of the 1982 season the lacrosse administration might well have felt that the 1983 season was to be one of recuperation and regeneration, but it provide to be a very active time during which the foundations for many good things were laid.

The lightning premiership in Victoria was discarded in favour of a longer playing season. Eight games were played on Sunday. That there was support for Sunday games is evident

from the fact that they attracted almost 700 paying spectators. The finals were well supported, and the gross income from these games brought in \$4,447. There was another increase in registered senior players, there being 841 in 1993 compared with 618 in 1982. This is not a huge increase, but any increase was gratifying after the low of 610 in 1981. The figures are difficult to interpret. Although there was an increase in numbers, there was a decrease in clubs, from 14 to 13, the number of teams remained static at 37. Just what the increase in players meant is difficult to infer, but at least it suggested an improved trend.

The registrations in the junior division showed even more encouragement than those in the seniors.

There were 702 registered junior players as against 672 in 1982. The Eltham club was active in its endeavours to attract juniors having 90 registered players. Surrey Park (88), Camberwell, Glenroy and Williamstown with 70 each also did well. In the E section (Under 16) a close finish resulted. Williamstown defeated Caulfield by one goal in the semi-final and by 2 goals in the grand final. In Division 2 Mitcham 15 defeated Chadstone 7. In the F Section (Under 14) Division 1 saw Caulfield as premiers, and in Division 2 Chadstone were victorious. The G section (Under 12) was divided into three sections, the winners respectively being Montmorency, Williamstown and Kooyong. Thus the basics of all lacrosse, the various club games, showed that it was sound, and could lead to expansion.

Introducing young players to a sport always has its dangers. There is always a tendency for certain people, and certain sections of people, to forget for whom the sport among juniors is played. Coaches tend to regard their team as a medium for the increase of their own reputations, rather than the good of the children. Parents tend to bask in the glory that participants in junior sports, spectators too can undermine the values of fair play and good manners. These characteristics are by no means restricted to Australia. The Canadian association brought out an excellent document giving guidelines for adult behaviours in connection with junior sport. Lacrosse Victoria saw fit to distribute copies of these guidelines to clubs. Matters were discussed under 7 different headings: coaching code, parents code, teachers code, spectators code, officials code, administrators code, news media code. The advice is so excellent that it should be republished every year, and that it should be made available to all sports where juniors are concerned. The total code is too long for inclusion here, but some extracts may be worthy of attention.

Coaches code

1. Be reasonable in your demands on the young players time, energy, and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests.
2. Teach players that the rules of the game are mutual agreements which no one would evade or break.
3. Avoid over-playing the talented players, the "just average" players need and deserve equal time.
4. Remember that children play for fun and enjoyment, and that winning is only a part of it. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making mistakes or losing a competition.
5. Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
6. Remember the children need a coach they can respect.

Parent's code

1. Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports.
2. Remember children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
3. Encourage your child always to play by the rules.
4. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory, so that the result of each game may be accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Do not publicly question the official's judgement and never their honesty.

6. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from the children's sporting activities.

Administrator's code

1. Do not allow any sport programme to become primarily spectator entertainment.
2. Equipment and facilities must meet safety standards, and be appropriate to the maturity level of the children.
3. Remember that play is done for its own sake, downplay the importance of awards.

New media code

1. Understand that children are not miniature pros.
2. Know the difference between the goals of amateur sport and those of professional sport, and ensure that your readers are made aware of the difference. The professional is an entertainer and a wage-earner, and this is often reflected in the many instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour.

From these sections from the "Code for Children in Sport" parents might well deduce that those children playing lacrosse were in wise and faithful hands.

The lacrosse administration too might take comfort that those children following the disciplines of lacrosse were being trained by the best citizens in the best aspects of citizenship. Even if the flow on to senior lacrosse was a little disappointing, the good influence of lacrosse and lacrosse players was having an increasing effect on society.

The number of boys and girls playing the game cannot be reckoned, because there was no official registration of school players. We may draw some conclusion that it was wide-spread. The "Diamond Valley News" (1 March 1983) stated that the Eltham Lacrosse Club was holding a schools competition between 12 local primary schools.

A dimension was added when arrangements were made for an under 14 team to travel interstate. This was the first time a tour by such young boys had been proposed. When it was first placed for consideration by the VALA it was accepted with some reserve. Taking responsibility for supervising such young boys is a little different from what is required for more mature players. The VALA observed that it would call for a coach and a manager, and at least two other adults to assist with supervision. Clubs were asked to submit names of adults who were prepared to accept the responsibilities. It was also made clear that this would not be a championship trip, and all costs would be borne by those taking part (General circular 19 May 1983). Thus the problem of supervision was evidently overcome, for in the "business arising" section of the minutes of 20 July 1983 the officials for the Under 14 visit were announced. In the correspondence it is revealed that the South Australian Lacrosse Association supplied a schedule for the Under 14 visit, the duration to be from the Thursday to the Saturday.

The Under 14 interstate tour attracted interest. It was sponsored by the Coca Cola Bottlers. Western Australia also took part. The Victorian team was selected on a basis of club representation, so that experience gained might be shared by the participating clubs. The

The experience of getting to know well their own team members whom they previously knew as casual acquaintances from opposing teams must have laid some sort of basis for solidarity in the VALA making friends with boys of their own age from other states must also have had a beneficial effect on their general character, and enjoying the hospitality of generous hosts in another state must have been of great benefit, as well as would be the exercise of their best manners in strange homes.

To other enterprises were undertaken in 1983 to broaden the education of junior lacrosse players. The first was: these are important in that they are pioneering projects in expanding under age lacrosse to the international level, the first of these occasions was the visit of the Gilman School.

The Gilman School is an exclusive school situated in Baltimore. Lacrosse had a strong following among the schools in Baltimore. Unfortunately few details are recorded of their tour. But success is not to be measured in winning or losing. In Baltimore about 100 schools play lacrosse, so that the experiences of the Gilman team in Australia could colour the view of many young Americans. They spent a week in Victoria, billeted in the homes of their opponents. They played 2 matches in Victoria against a Victorian universities team and against a Victorian Colts team. The Victorian teams were a little older than their opponents, and it is understandable that the Victorian teams won.

It would seem that the team from Gilman College were known as the Baltimore Internationals. The team which played for the Baltimore Internationals against the combined universities was:-

They took back with them many happy memories, one of which was to attend the Collingwood – Richmond league football match, and were duly impressed with the Australian game. The members of the Gilman team ranged from 15 to 18 years, and it is not surprising that they were outclassed by a South Australian under 19 side by 23-18. They spent a day with their hosts in the Barossa Valley.

Another junior team visited Australia when a team of boys, the Calgary Apaches visited Australia, and were a group of boys under the age of 12 years, known in Canada as “peewees”. Their hosts were the Camberwell Club, which publicised the event with an attractive hand-bill carrying the logos of the Camberwell Club and the Canadian “Peewees”. It announced a game at 1pm on 19 August 1983 between Canada and the Combined Primary Schools. A second match on Saturday 20 August was to be played between the Camberwell Chiefs and Canada. The Australians proved to be superior in field lacrosse, but that is not the usual Canadian form of the game and when the Peewees played a team from Chadstone at box lacrosse the Canadian boys showed their superiority.

Some senior lacrosseurs were sceptical about giving so much prominence to such young boys, but such glory is transitory. What would remain in the boys memories was the kind treatment and good comradeship of boys in another country, and of their parents and society in general. It is a pity more sports did not follow the lead of lacrosse, so that an earlier generation might have regarded people of their races with sympathy and affection rather than automatically disparaging them as the Bosche or the Hun, or frog eaters.

We should be under no illusion about the influence of sport in forging the brotherhood of man. Professional sport does not do it, as is evident from such events of Olympic Games, association football (soccer) or cricket. Games must be truly amateur, where the game is above the prize, and the mutual respect between players and opponents above professional income or national pride.

We have not yet exhausted the range of lacrosse. To overlook the influence of box lacrosse as an element of the game would be a fatal omission. In 1983 the VALA enquired into the development of this aspect of the game in Victoria and in Australia generally. A report presented to the Management Committee by the box lacrosse committee revealed that form of the game was not played in Western Australia, but that in south Australia there was about 120 players, many from state league ranks. In Victoria there were 69 registered players.

This no doubt was largely due to the fact that the clubs involved in box lacrosse were not in the state league section. This may not be the whole answer. Box lacrosse was a rough game played in a confined space. Injuries were frequent. Players from state league teams were little inclined to put their main teams at risk by suffering injuries in what they regarded as a minor aspect of the game. The character of box lacrosse is described by Tom Richards (Sun 15 April 1983) "Box lacrosse", he stated, "could be described as lacrosse players indoors without the rules and no niceties and bonus points for brute force. I watched the Renegades practice at the Footscray YMCA this week, and frankly, I still have the shakes. I'd rather tangle with Spartans than gladiators like the Mollison brothers". It is not altogether to be wondered that state league players preferred their lacrosse life and limit for their field games rather than box lacrosse.

The Victorian box lacrosse section had engaged itself to conduct a world championship in 1985. The pointed out that, by virtue of its constitution, the VALA must involve itself with the administration of box lacrosse in Victoria.

The countries likely to be represented would be Canada, which intended to send its best team, rather than the teams representing East and West, the Indian nation, and the U.S.A.

It was calculated that about 150 billets would be needed, and about 15-20 people would have to be involved for a full two years to organize the event. The indoor sports centre had been tentatively booked for 29 January for the Victorian box lacrosse grand final or a Victoria vs SA box game.

The cost would be \$16,000, of which it was anticipated that \$5,000-6,000 would come from government assistance. To make up the rest of the costs at least 2,000 tickets at \$2 would need to be sold.

The VALA was not convinced either that the standard of box lacrosse was high enough for Victoria to become involved in running the championship. The ALC would be asked to invite a Canadian Senior A, All-star team to Australia during 1985.

In the meantime the committee for box lacrosse in Victoria must start very soon to organize its own box lacrosse season. A committee of advice on box lacrosse was set up made up of one club office bearer from each affiliated club.

An important development occurred when negotiations were concluded with the Royal Agricultural Society for box lacrosse to be played in the Hall of Commerce. Cost of admission would be \$2 and \$200 would be spent on the construction of a box court. Thanks were expressed to Paul Mollison for his efforts in organising the box season and arranging the venue. The court was to be full sized, 190' x62'. There was accommodation for 400 spectators and plenty of parking space. The season would run from 10 November, with games on every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, with women's games on Wednesdays and pee-wees on Saturday afternoon. The official opening would be on 14th November, and clubs were urged to ensure a full attendance, as the local mayor, TV media representatives, a Canadian lacrosse official and would-be sponsors of lacrosse would be present. Box lacrosse now having its own suitable headquarters was poised for active development.

At the meeting of the VALA (21 December 1983) the President stated that the situation with regard to players was good, though attendance of spectators a little disappointing. An interstate match between Victoria and South Australia had been arranged for 11 February 1984.

In a release to the press Paul Mollison was able to state that box lacrosse had teams in 13 areas – Altona, Mitcham, Williamstown, Caulfield, Surrey Park, Malvern, Footscray, Eltham,

Doncaster, Camberwell, Coburg, and Melbourne University. This shows that the spread of box lacrosse had been considerable, and its future was promising.

At the interstate level the Victorian team would travel to Adelaide, on the Australia Day weekend, to play two matches against South Australia. On Saturday 11 February the third game of the best of three series would be played at the new indoor sports centre. It would not be long before Australia would be able to field teams of world standard in box lacrosse.

An event that should not be passed over in 1983 was the celebration of the centenary of the Melbourne University lacrosse club. It is the oldest lacrosse club in continuous existence in Australia, and the second oldest in the world. Only the Yale lacrosse club is older. The celebrations included the normal VALA fixture games, a centenary dinner and past players games. The toast to the Melbourne University lacrosse club was proposed by the recently appointed patron of the Association, Mr Henry Volk. A brief history of the club was compiled which reveals that the club was formed in 1883, at a preliminary meeting held on 25th April. The first general meeting was held on the 4th May, when thirty members were enrolled.

The club games and the club members were the mainstream from which the interstate teams could be drawn, just as the state sides provided the personnel from which international teams could be selected. It is therefore fitting that this chapter should conclude by recording details of the interstate games.

The senior championships in 1983 were played in Victoria. A change in administration occurred in that the conduct of the Australian championships was placed in the hands of the directorate of Lacrosse Victoria. They carried out their task with distinction.

The innovation of playing these games under lights at Olympic Park proved successful. The matches were skilful and close, SA throwing the winning goal after the final was tied at the end of normal time, during the 8 minutes of extra time allowed to try to resolve a tie.

The junior championships were held in Perth and Victoria won all its games, though it managed the winning goal against SA in overtime. It thus retained the Mal Taylor Cup, the Turnbull Cup and the Schultz Cup.

Before closing our scrutiny of the 1983 season two matters should be noted. The first was the lacrosse magazine. It came into being in the form of a newsletter through the foresight and determination of W.L. Gray. He saw the need for such a publication to inform players of what was going on at the administration and club level. A disharmony had grown up between these two necessary elements of the association. Terry Allington, the historian of the ALC was equally aware of the need, and worked hard to expand the newsletter into a lacrosse magazine. Only people who have been concerned with such productions know the prodigious amount of work needed, and the reluctance of members to pay for the magazine. To reduce costs, he persuaded the SALA to join in the venture. This was sure to be difficult, each association feeling that it was being exploited for the benefit of the other. The SALA decided to repudiate its participation in the combined magazine, and even wanted to withhold the money it had already committed itself to providing. Terry Allington continued to work single handed, but found it difficult to get the required input from the clubs. Lacrosse Victoria, which at least had a skeleton staff, offered to take over publication of the magazine. Truly, the energy and loyalty of Don Miller was prodigious. The magazine developed and improved until it became the excellent publication that it now is. The transfer from the single and excellent hands of Terry Allington to Lacrosse Victoria took place in 1983.

The second aspect is the increase in efficiency of refereeing in Victoria. The Victorian branch of the Australian Lacrosse Referees Assn worked indefatigably under the guidance of Mr J.

Gunn and Mr T. Allington as chairman of assessors of referees. The standard of refereeing improved greatly. Some criticism was still levelled at untrained referees provided by clubs. The high standard of refereeing achieved in Victoria led to a similar improvement in the standard of play.

The most important aspect of the season 1984 was the reconstruction of the association. As the annual report states, the association changed its name for the first time in 100 years. This came about through the association becoming an incorporated body. Members of the association, and of individual clubs were aware of potential financial danger to individual members. The government was also aware of these risks for individuals, and exerted no small pressure on all sporting clubs and associations to become incorporated. Until they did so, the personal assets of individual members could be used to meet the indebtedness of the club. Incorporated, the assets of the club only could be compulsorily demanded to meet the financial responsibilities of the club. Unfortunately, few members of clubs realized the implications of incorporation, and accepted the proposition with distrust.

Some felt that the contingency of their being personally involved was so remote as to be negligible. Moreover, there were incorporation fees to be met, and officials to be found. To become incorporated, an organization needed to be governed by its own suitable constitution, by-laws and regulations. A constitution needs to be tightly drawn up. Those of many clubs were the work of amateurs and were ambiguous, if they existed at all. Incorporation was not a simple operation, like the turning on or off of a switch. So far as the VALA was concerned, it meant hours of careful thought under expert leadership and guidance. Quite apart from incorporation the association had grown and developed greatly over the century of its existence, and the constitution was very much in need of revision.

The progress was slow. At the meeting of the committee of the VALA (16 May 1984) Mr E. Clayfield reported on the work he had done on the incorporation. He emphasized the need to incorporate, and pointed out that the main purpose was to give the VALA a legal identity, thus freeing individual members from personal liability. Having prepared the documents, he circulated copies of:-

- (1) A draft of statement of purpose
- (2) A new draft constitution
- (3) A table of contents of suggested new association and committee by-laws

His submissions were carefully discussed, and delegates were asked to discuss all drafts with their clubs, and come prepared to vote at the next meeting on acceptance of the drafts for ballot of approved members. If delegates had reservations, or additional matters to propose, he gave them his telephone number, asking that any such matters should be brought to notice before the next meeting, so that a final draft could be presented to the meeting. It would be necessary to redraft the by-laws in their new form. On the 20th June 1984 the Assistant Secretary referred to the following drafts circulated at the last committee of management meeting:-

- (1) .Application for incorporation of association
- (2) Declaration to accompany application for incorporation
- (3) Statement of purposes
- (4) Notice of appointment of Public Officer
- (5) Victorian lacrosse Association incorporation – constitution 1984
- (6) Table of contents for new by-laws

A period of discussion, questions and answers followed, in which it was agreed to accept the modified committee of management structure on the understanding that the by-laws would provide for a special meeting of members to be held at least quarterly. The name of L. W. Taylor was to be submitted to members for appointment as the Public officer. The draft submission for purpose should be submitted to members for approval, and the draft

constitution of the VLA Inc be submitted to members for approval. This was carried unanimously.

The Secretary and the Assistant Secretary were empowered to make the necessary arrangements for a ballot of members. This was also passed without dissent.

Finally a committee was appointed to prepare new by-laws, which would comprise:-

- (a) The rules of lacrosse – as approved by the ALC including nay VLA Inc. amendments.
- (b) Association by-laws – comprising those sections of the VALA constitution which could be amended only at an annual general meeting, or a special general meeting convened for the purposed.
- (c) Committee by-laws – comprising mainly the present VALA by-laws and which could continue to be amended by the Committee of Management.

At the VALA meeting (15 August 1984) the Assistant Secretary reported that the meeting approving the proposed incorporation had been held at the Albert Ground on Saturday, 4th August. Ballots conducted by referees at the various games had been run in conjunction. Affirmative votes numbered 411 out of 618 senior registered players and officials. All paper work was completed, and checked by Peter Stubbs of the Victorian Sports Federation, and would be submitted to the Associations Incorporation Board by the Public Officer, Mr W. Taylor, on Thursday, August 16th, on which day the name of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association would become history, and Victorian Lacrosse Association Incorporated would take its place. The fee for incorporation was \$60.

The management Committee of the Victorian Lacrosse Association Inc. was only too well aware that there was a very thin partition between progress and retrogression. The most serious sign of regression was the collapse of the under 19 competition in Victoria. The reason advanced for this retrograde step was that there were not enough players in this age group to raise six teams even if clubs unwilling to participate are included. Doubts had been expressed as to the viability of a competition at this age group, and this season seemed to justify the pessimists. The fact is that the total number of registered senior players fell from 641 in 1983 to 611 in 1984. A reduction of 30 registered payers is enough to cause anxiety, especially if the trend continues. The figures are difficult to interpret. Two fewer state league teams were entered in 1984 than in 1983: Division 1 remained the same, but one fewer team was entered in each of Divisions 2 and 3. It would seem likely that the Under 19 group was being dissipated by clubs using their better Under 19 players to fill higher division teams. This might have been caused by the retirement of older players, rather than necessarily a falling away at the crucial age of under 19. Victoria still entered a Colts team in the interstate competitions but whatever the cause, and wherever the loss, a reduction of 30 registered senior players must be taken seriously.

The Management Committee therefore decided that a Committee of Advice should be reconvened to examine the problems which occurred during the season, and to formulate a plan for the betterment of lacrosse during the next few years.

The procedure was this: members of the Committee of Advice prepared set agenda papers, and then met over the whole weekend of October 19-21. The recommendations proposed by the Committee of Advice would be the subject of a Special General Meeting. The President of the Association, Mr Graham Webb, made available his Philip Island house, and his wife and family catered for the party and carried out the general domestic duties. The committee consisted of:-

A.Chiron, G. Lee, E. Clayfield, G. Garnsworthy, P. Mollison, A. Inglis, R. Jackson, R. Joy, P. Raferty, D. Miller, R. Shannon, W. Taylor and G. Webb (convenor).

The main areas considered were:

1. Necessary changes in organization and administration brought about by incorporation

2. Recruitment
3. Coaching
4. The play of the game

There do not seem to be changes in policies for recruitment, and, at first at any rate, they did not solve the problem of retaining players past teenage into real seniority. Emphasis was still to be laid on the propagation in schools, which had up till then succeeded admirably. There were tentative suggestions that transition into senior ranks would be more effective if clubs took a more active interest in the schools – but this is more easily said than done. Club officials are themselves busy men, and it is as much as they can manage to carry out the administration of their own clubs efficiently. Some clubs indeed did work among the schools in their district effectively, but frequently this was due to the work of a teacher who also happened to be a member of a club.

Lacrosse was developing in different forms. In schools “Soft – lacrosse”, later known as “sof-crosse” was an effective basis. It could be played as a mixed game, or a boys or girls game, which made things easier for physical education teachers. It also removed most of the elements of danger that made parents, mothers mainly, hesitant about encouraging their children to participate in field lacrosse.

The hope was that children would make any easy transition to the field game after having been introduced to “sof-crosse”. It was suggested that a form of “sof-crosse” might be attractive to veterans, who would be able to participate actively in a form of lacrosse, and keep alive their interest in the game generally.

There seems to have been no systematic registration of “sof-crosse” players, so that the numbers of people playing lacrosse in one form or another was much higher than figure registrations would indicate.

At the other extreme was box-lacrosse. This was a fast, spectator pleasing game, and one which gave lacrosse players the opportunity to increase their stick skills, and to take regular vigorous exercise. It was played when the field season was over, usually on an artificial surface and under lights. Field lacrosse exponents were encouraged to participate, for its advantages were evident.

It had disadvantages. Firstly it was expensive. Being played indoors involved the engagement of relatively large halls. It required the erection and demolition of walls to form the box.

There were disadvantages in the Show Grounds site. The playing space was 17 feet too narrow, this making it unsuitable for interstate or international games. For such fixtures the Indoor Sports Centre was hired. Mr Paul Mollison and his volunteers from the Renegades team saved the Association about \$1,000 by undertaking the preparation of the sites and their subsequent restoration.

In Victoria “Lacrosse” means field lacrosse. Other forms of the game are subsidiary. In spite of the disappointment caused by the abandonment of the Under 19 competition, field lacrosse players enjoyed a good season. In the various senior divisions 35 teams were entered, which is only one less than the 36 of the previous season. The decrease in the number of registered players from 641 to 611 was unfortunate, but it seems to have had little effect on the conduct of the competition.

An encouraging sign for future development was the projected formation of a new club at Doncaster. At the meeting of the VLA (15 August 1984), the President reported that the ground had been bull-dozed, and a large pavilion built. A meeting of interested people had been held. They would continue meeting on a monthly basis until the club is functioning.

Additional evidence of optimism was shown in the minutes of the VLA, when the President of the association conferred with Councillor Les Croft of the Altona Council to discuss a proposal to develop a site to become the headquarters of lacrosse in Australia.

The plan envisaged four grounds, one of which would be fenced and let. A tentative proposal was to go before the Council on the 5th February.

At the interstate level the Victorian Lacrosse Association showed that the standard of play at all levels was more than satisfactory. The senior championships were held in Adelaide where the event was carried out on a round-robin system. The scores for the matches were:-

Day1

SA 16	Victoria 24
WA 25	President's 7

Day 2

WA 13	Vic 18
SA 23	President's 9

Day 3

SA 11	WA 25
Vic 28	President's 11

Final

Vic 14	WA 18
SA 22	President's 22

The closeness of the scores in all the matches suggests that Australia had a lively body of young players waiting for their opportunity to replace ageing champions.

Victoria hosted the junior championships. The Caulfield Club undertook all the arrangements, and conducted the event well. The WA juniors were very well prepared, and proved far too good for the other states.

We cannot close the account of the 1984 season without bringing to notice that, after a lapse of many years, the office of patron was revived. The first of the new line of patrons was Henry Volk, B.Com, B. Ed.

Henry first became interested in lacrosse in 1921, while he was at Melbourne High School, and was the first secretary of the Melbourne high School Old boys Club. The war brought his playing days to an end, but not before he had become the captain of the Melbourne University senior A side and a lacrosse blue.

On returning from the war he was elected President of the MHSOB, a position he held until the end of the Club's 50th year in 1973. He served the VALA in many capacities, President, senior state team selector, Victorian team manager, Chairman of the Investigation Committee and Vice President for 21 years. He represented Victoria on the Australian Lacrosse Council from 1969 to 1978 and was President of that Council in 1973 and 1974, when in the latter year the Second World Championships were played in Melbourne.

When the International Lacrosse Federation was formed he became the Australian Vice-President, a position he still held on his resignation from the Australian Lacrosse Council in February 1978.

As a life member of the VALA he still maintains an interest in lacrosse, but now as a non-involved spectator. (From 1984 annual report). He was a fitting choice. No man in Victoria better knew the various interests of lacrosse nor could have served them better.

The committee of enquiry convened by Dr G. Webb stated "the play of the game" as being a big issue for the good of lacrosse. Good refereeing was necessary for the game to reach its

potential, and no report on the season 1984 would be complete without some scrutiny of the activities of the Australian Lacrosse Referees Association, and its branch in Victoria. Lacrosse is a difficult game for referees. The rules are complex and the various penalties more so. Recently introduced techniques like the "slow whistle" need nice judgement. At least two referees operate together and combination and cooperation between them is essential but not always easy. There were two classes of referees, professional and club. Entry into professional ranks demanded strict and prolonged instruction and practice. Club referees were often chosen because no one else was available, and their standard of skill frequently left something to be desired. Though the remuneration for a referee was adequate as a sort of honorarium, it was not so generous that a man might make a living from it, and the payment was not a strong incentive, compared with a desire to serve lacrosse well. Refereeing, or umpiring, is an activity that rarely wins unanimous approval, frequently it arouses violent antipathy. The neck that wears a whistle rarely rests easier than the head that wears a crown.

The Committee of Advice stated two objectives for improving the status and quality of referees. It realized that at the present time there were too few men undertaking the onerous task of refereeing, over the rigorous training required of men of professional standard. It therefore suggested that for the 1985 season one ALRA qualified referee should be in charge of senior games, each assisted by one club referee.

Also, in 1985 ALRA should start providing referees for junior games.

The ALRA should assess club referees to ensure that they are competent. Club referees should be replaced by ALRA referees as soon as possible, but not later than 1990.

Clubs should be encouraged to have their representatives attend accreditation course, and that accredited club referees be required to attend an accreditation course every two years. ALRA referees should be tested annually on their knowledge of the rules.

ALRA referees should be encouraged also to referee the box game.

It can be seen that the Committee of Advice required much of its referees. How did the Australian lacrosse Referees Association regard the suggestions and implied criticisms?

The first obvious conclusion is that the Referees Association took its responsibilities seriously. An example of this is provided in the minutes of the AGM of the Referees Association, when Mr Noel O'Brien tendered his resignation. His reason was that he intended retiring after 25 years refereeing. He was formally thanked for his assistance over the years to lacrosse in general, and to refereeing in particular. Such were the men who gave themselves up to this aspect of the game. Another stalwart of the game, Terry Allington was appointed to the gradings and appointments panel. There were in 1984 17 members of the Victorian Branch of the ALRA.

Coaching was another aspect of the game that the Committee of Advice believed to be one of the big issues in Victorian lacrosse. It was recognized that coaching in WA and SA was of better quality than that in Victoria. To overcome this it was believed that coaches should be assessed in three levels:

Level 1 Up to U16

Level 2 Up to State League

Level 3 Interstate and International

Three Level 1 accreditation courses were already planned for 1985. The VLA Inc requested Lacrosse Victoria for permission to run level 2 and level 3 accreditation courses.

Accredited coaches were to enjoy the privilege of wearing a special cap and arm-band when they had completed their training.

VLA Inc. supported the formation of a Coaches' Association, and invited Alec Inglis with the assistance of lacrosse Victoria Secretariat to take the initial step of calling a meeting of

coaches, and VLA asked Lacrosse Victoria to prepare a manual for clubs on coaching. The good effect of the implementation of these propositions was at least a contributing cause to the good results at interstate levels of Victorian players.

In 1985, lacrosse, like all sports, had now entered into a difficult and different era. Amateurism was dying. In many aspects was dead. In many sports entrepreneurs had taken charge, and the money to be gained by performers was the criterion upon which the rank of a sport was decided. Cricket, football, tennis and golf were now forms of professional entertainment and were considered by the press and publicity agents as the major sporting activities. They could buy paper and air space. To do this they had to raise money, not from active players, but from sponsors. Sponsorships ran with astronomical figures; but such sponsorships were to be had if the sport could provide comparative exposure. Organizations that have significant sums at their disposal for publicity expected a proportionate return. Lacrosse, like hockey, and other sports must adapt to this new power. Lacrosse administrators had cause for anxiety. The reduction in the numbers of senior players began to show itself, not as an isolated phenomenon, but as a continuing and significant trend. The numbers of senior registrations in Victoria from 1980 onwards reveals the situation:-

1980	668 registered senior players
1981	610
1982	618
1983	641
1984	611
1985	588

There may have been causes which the annual reports do not disclose. For instance, there were now four separate codes of lacrosse – field, box, soft-lacrosse and women's lacrosse. If the figures contained in the annual reports refer only to players of field lacrosse, to the exclusion of box lacrosse, soft-lacrosse, the situation may not have been as serious as it appears.

Women's lacrosse would certainly be excluded. The women had their own flourishing association. The position with junior recruitment is harder to evaluate. The 1985 report gives no figures as to registered junior players, but from the reports of the various age competitions the position seems healthy.

There are two types of junior players – those who take part in the Association fixtures, and the many more who play casual lacrosse in schools under the guidance of Lacrosse Victoria and its leader, Don Miller.

Box lacrosse also was increasing in popularity, but as box lacrosse players were also members of clubs and field lacrosse teams, their numbers would be included among the senior registered players. The number of players who took part in the competitions at the Showgrounds was 134.

A serious flaw seems to be the lack of a link age group between the Under 16 groups and open players, the Under 9 group having ceased through lack of support. Although Victoria entered Colts teams in the ALC championships, it is to be assumed that their numbers were drawn from among the senior teams. The playing activities of the Association followed the now established patterns. In State League the grand final was won by Williamstown (18) from Chadstone (15).

Box lacrosse increased considerably in popularity. One hundred and thirty four players in 8 clubs took part, the clubs were divided into two sections, the Senior A consisting of

Renegades (Black), Mohawks, Renegades (White) and Cobras. The Senior B consisted of Blue Whalers, Redbacks, Redmen and SP Kings.

In the Senior A the Renegades (19) d Mohawks (9), thus winning the Read Cup. In the Senior B section, the Whalers (22) defeated the Redbacks (14) thus winning the L.W. Taylor Cup.

Much of the success of this branch of the game of lacrosse was due to the energy and devotion of the Mollison brothers. The scheduled rounds of interstate games were carried through.

In 1985 the Senior Championships were held in Perth. The Victorian team did well in the Round Robin section, but was defeated by WA 23 to 15.

The Colts championships were played in Victoria and hosted by the Altona Club. The final was won by Victoria(23) from SA (5).

The junior championships (U16) were held in Adelaide.

This year was an important one for all Victorians, 1986 being 150th anniversary of the foundation of Melbourne. Special celebrations were arranged by many organizations. Lacrosse for its share staged an international carnival, by inviting a Canadian team to visit the state to play matches in both field and box lacrosse. Being an international fixture approval had first to be obtained from the ALC.

This was no small undertaking. A considerable expense was involved. Box lacrosse, the Canadian national form of the game, had to be given due prominence, first of all, removable walls and screens had to be erected at the Showgrounds Hall of Commerce. This was necessary for Victoria to field a team which would give the Canadians reasonable competition, and would also provide a practice venue during the competitions.

Rental at \$540 a week and restoration costs were high, and players and spectators were levied \$2 a night. This covered rental expenses but did not meet capital expenditure. The the Melbourne Sports and Entertainment Centre was hired for 11 February 1985 to conduct a reciprocal Victoria vs SA game and to allow the SA and Victorian women's associations to use it for their own championship final. This event served as a shake-down trial of the facilities of the centre, gauge spectator support at a premier venue, test appeal to television stations and to sponsors, and to assess the association's manpower resources in the conduct of a major event. The Sports Centre proved very satisfactory. Only the floor surface required special attention. It emphasized the need to pursue vigorously sponsorship.

It was now time to select teams and officials. WA offered no support, but SA cooperated. The following officials were appointed:

Coach Denis Trainor

Manager Ted Clayfield

Asst Coaches Glen Revell (SA), Paul Mollison (Victoria)

Physiotherapist Joy Clayfield (Appointed by VLA)

Technical adviser Chris Baker

Over the Australia Day weekend in Adelaide, two games were played between Victoria and SA, from which the Australian team was selected. Victorian players included in the Australian team were:- Glen Mollison, Gary Smithwick, Doug Carter, Greg Mollison, Paul Mollison, Ric Benedierks, Dean Mollison, Gerry Piovesan, Cameron Gibson, Max Madonia and Shane Haniver.

To return to the championship arrangements to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Melbourne, much work was done outside the arena. Finance must be raised. To do this a vigorous campaign was undertaken to attract banner displays at the Entertainment Centre. It

was hoped to sell banner space for twenty banners, and fifteen were taken up by various sponsors. It was discovered that a personal approach to companies was more effective than a request by letter. Letters proved to be a waste of time.

The field game was impossible to sell. Without television coverage, the event would be seen by comparatively few people. TV stations were not interested in giving it space. The reasons they advanced was that it was not a major event at a premier venue. There were many other premier events going on at the same time, and televising lacrosse would do little to increase ratings.

Some firms made valuable contributions in kind, such as ticket printing; and the Berrit Company supplied drinks to all players during the breaks. The attempt to attract an overall sponsor was unsuccessful. Firms which could have given this support, such as banks, building societies, insurance companies, motor manufacturers almost invariably accompanied their refusal with the statement that their publicity budget had already been committed, and that they could support requests only if they were submitted twelve months in advance.

One must realize that such business undertakings have many requests. TAA, for example, which had a contract with the ALC as its carrier, refused to make any contribution. This rebuff was regarded unfavourably by the lacrosse world. But the Qantas coffers were not unlimited, and they had already supported the North Melbourne Football Club to the amount of \$1 million over the next 3 years. TAA and CP Air responded generously, which led to mutually beneficial contracts subsequently being drawn up between the two airlines and the ALC. Attracting anything like major sponsorship is a highly competitive business.

The Puma company was approached, offering naming rights, guaranteed press and programme advertising, banner displays at all events and logos on uniforms. Puma reacted favourably, and Puma also made available ideal products at reasonable prices.

The VLA learned much from the exercise. The primary observation was that each successful application was the direct result of a personal approach. A comprehensive programme was drawn up. This attracted a reasonable amount of advertising. Thus after much hard work, sufficient funds were raised for the VLA to carry the event out without making unduly severe demands on its own funds.

The attendance at the lacrosse events was a little disappointing. However, they took place during a time of State celebration, to which many sporting and other clubs made their contributions. The international game also coincided with the opening of the Moomba festivities. As a consequence Batman Avenue was crowded, and it was difficult to find suitable parking at a reasonable distance from the Sports and Entertainment Centre.

The results of the carnival were:-

Field Lacrosse

Victoria 29	d	Canada 19
-------------	---	-----------

Box Lacrosse

Canada 27	d	Victoria 11
-----------	---	-------------

SA 13	d	Victoria 12
-------	---	-------------

Canada 26	d	Australia 8
-----------	---	-------------

Women's Indoor

SA 17	d	Victoria 11
-------	---	-------------

SA 9	d	Victoria 8
------	---	------------

Sof-crosse

Schools competitions; Round Robin Final

Assumption 6	d	Broadmeadows 4
--------------	---	----------------

Box lacrosse made an instant appeal to those lucky enough to watch the games. They were impressed with the speed of the game, the fast action and the skill in stick work. Many spectators returned for all the events at the festival. It was felt that box lacrosse could be a very marketable activity.

The statement of receipts and expenditure reveals that \$5,371 was transferred to VLA funds after all expenses were met.

There were future events looming for which ample advance preparation had to be made. The world championships for 1986 and 1990 needed attention. The ALC had tendered to host the world championships in 1990. Old lacrosse players are like old soldiers, in that their active days are not unlimited. Some of the champions of the previous world series were growing old, and could no longer stand up to the rigour of world competition. Young champions must be trained up to take their places. Coaches must be found who could train them to a sufficient standard to match other teams in world competition. As preparatory publicity hand bills were drawn up and distributed. The first read: "Aussie lacrosse takes on world".

An exciting new logo has been specially commissioned by the ALC to identify Australian lacrosse and Challenge Squad 86/Squad 90.

Watch for this to be launched in each state during April.

Officials for Challenge 86

The ALC has announced the following structure and team officials for Challenge 86.

Executive Director
Doug Fox- Victoria

Head Coach
Denis Trainor - Vic

Manager
Peter Hobbs - SA

Asst Coach – attack
Roger Attenborough-SA

Asst Coach – defence
John Carter – SA

Asst Manager
Peter Smirk – WA

Further appointments in coaching support areas are planned (eg coaching aides for scouting, bench organization, fitness plus sports medicine/physio).

Squad fee – All Squad 86 and Squad 90 players will be required to pay a squad fee of \$50 (non-refundable) upon notification of selection. These fees will be pooled and used to cover part of the considerable costs in preparing a world championship team.

REWARD – All selected squad members will receive:-

- Squad training shirt
- Own player assessment profile and personalized coaching/development programme
- Challenge 86 game plan book and other coaching literature
- Regular coaching workshops supervised by Australian team coaches
- Opportunity to develop your own game and gain selection for Australia 86

Itinerary

5 July – Team departs Australia

5-11 July – Practice matches in U.S. – Baltimore or North Carolina or North East.
12-18 July – Toronto – pre championship practice matches
18-28 July – World championships
28 July – 3 August – Sightseeing, and home via West Coast or Hawaii and Fiji

Finance

Total project cost estimated at \$4,000 per player. This is reduced to \$2,500 per player via government grants, squad fees and merchandising.
Sponsorships and fund raising is underway to further reduce the cost to as little as possible.
Clubs will be encouraged to assist their own club members.

Wives & supporters

Encourage and welcome on tour – travel and accommodation with team if desired.

Opportunity

90-100 players, 20-25 coaches, 20-25 officials. Every club and many individuals can participate and benefit.

Officials

The ALC has already announced the structure and team officials for team 86.

Profile on Australian lacrosse

The results of a recent survey undertaken by Doug Fox for the ALC and Challenge 86 show up some of the deficiencies in the Australian game compared with our most successful opponents, USA.

The assessment comes from the combined opinion of thirty Australian players, coaches and managers with international experience who were interviewed and completed questionnaires.

International success is not the real criterion on which the success of a sport should be assessed. Such events provide highlights, and incentives to excellence, but they are only the pinnacle by which they are supported. There is a strange phenomenon in lacrosse, and that is the long and devoted service that so many lacrosseurs give to their sport off the field. A life-member of the association has given a life-time of service. Names crop up year after year – Henry Volk, Terry Allington, George Webb, Phil Shappere, the list seems to be endless. Many others receive little publicity, but give their time week by week, month by month, serving on committees, of which there were at least 10 in 1985, giving their time as coaches and officials, selectors at various levels, acting in specific offices, there seems to be no end to it. Usually unrecognized and given little thanks, these men are the real power behind their sports. It is on the work that success depends, numbers are increased. All games have such men, but lacrosse seems unique in their numbers and devotion. It must be a great game, and is highly to be recommended, not only for its unique attractions – and anybody who has caught a ball or thrown one from a crosse knows the pleasurable sensation good stick work gives – but also as a training ground for selflessness, service to others, tolerance, wisdom and fortitude. If their example is followed by the young folk they nurture, our society would suffer a grievous loss if lacrosse were to be deleted from the list of our sporting activities.

1986 was to be an important year for lacrosse in Victoria, Australia for that matter. The world championships were to be held in Toronto, and all lacrosseurs were anxious that their country should finish with credit, even if they could not beat the redoubtable United States, as was their ambition. This was to be a climax, and so fittingly recounting all that it entails should come last. We should begin by considering things at home, for there is much to be observed.

First of all, lacrosse as played by the ordinary club player. The first thing to notice is the number of types of lacrosse now being played. First of all was the traditional field lacrosse. This was the lacrosse that really counted among men, and the branch of the game upon which the success of men's clubs depended. It must be said that the position regarding membership was disappointing. Senior registrations fell to the lowest number since 1977, numbering only 510 players. Thirteen clubs entered 54 senior teams. Three clubs no longer appeared on the lists – Coburg, Latrobe University and the Geelong club, Newcomb, which had opened with so much fanfare in 1979 and lasted through 1980. A new club was being formed at Doncaster. The junior sections started at Under 17 and went down to Under 13. No figures are given of registered junior players in the annual report. It is to be that there is a big gap between Under 17 and open. No doubt boys of eighteen were capable of playing in open-age competitions, and probably the upper end of under age groups was used to supplement open teams. On the face of it, it seems that all the work put into propagating the game among schools was having a negligible impact on the number of players supporting open-age sections. Don Miller's work with Lacrosse Victoria had been laborious and successful according to the strategy laid down by VLA Inc., but the strategy does not seem to have been successful in significantly increasing the number of senior players of field lacrosse.

The other major form of senior lacrosse played by men was box lacrosse. This form showed considerable advance, in spite of difficulties. It was played at night under lights, and arenas large enough for the game were few and expensive. The two arenas used were the Hall of Commerce at the Showgrounds, and the State Sport and Entertainment Centre, originally erected as a venue for swimming at the Olympic Games. An ambitious programme for a lacrosse centre which would cater for box lacrosse as well as field lacrosse was under discussion at Altona, but had not by 1986 been constructed. The success of the development of box lacrosse in Victoria was very largely due to the leadership and practical work of the Mollison brothers.

A third form of lacrosse evolved at this time. This was soft lacrosse. This was invented primarily as a variation that could be safely enjoyed by young players in schools. It could develop basic techniques, like stick work, allowed no body contact and it distilled out any dangerous elements, and thus appealed to parents. It was equally suitable for girls and boys, so that mixed teams could be organized. It was hoped that "Sof-crosse" as it came to be known would lead players into playing the form enjoyed by adults.

We must not overlook the fourth form of lacrosse – that played by women. The women's lacrosse association was rapidly growing in strength. The rules applying to women's lacrosse approximated the traditional English code, without the elements of roughness and vigour that were characteristic of men's lacrosse through the influence of the rules applying in the USA.

This diversity in the game may have had some effect on the numbers playing any single code. The drop in figures in field lacrosse is hard to explain, for lacrosse administrators continually showed vigour and imagination in the carrying out of their duties.

We now examine the details of the various forms of the game.

In field lacrosse, the senior grades were divided into four sections. The State League contained 10 teams, as it had the previous year. Division 1 contained 9 teams as against 8 the previous year. Division 2 dropped a team, 7 as against 8, and Division 3 dropped 3 teams, from 8 to 5. This suggests a decrease in the number of teams in the lower divisions is caused by a lack of new players being attracted to apprenticeship in the lower levels of the game. No reason is given for this, but it does inevitably suggest that Don Miller's indefatigable work among schools was having little impact on the game among open age players.

The Association urged clubs to identify themselves with schools. This seems to have been done only in isolated cases. Most clubs no doubt found it hard enough to find enough officials to run their own affairs efficiently, let alone men who could spare time during and after school hours to work among school children.

Victorian box lacrosse also had a successful season. Six teams took part in the competition – Renegades, Cobras, Williamstown, Vikings, Surrey Park and Redbacks. It is to be noted that for the first time club teams were entered as well as composite teams.

A number of trophies were available to players of box lacrosse. The Read Cup winners (Senior A) was won by the Renegades, who defeated the Cobras by 2 games to 1 in a best of 3 playoff. The L.W. Taylor Cup (Senior B) was won by Williamstown from Surrey Park by the same margin. The man of the match trophy in the Read Cup game was awarded to Dean Mollison (Renegades).

The man of the match in the L.W. Taylor cup was awarded to Geoff Robinson of Surrey Park.

The league best and fairest, The Mal Taylor Trophy, was awarded to G. Piovesan.

Box lacrosse was played by a number of devoted players, who devoted much time and energy to the game in matters outside the playing arena.

The game would have been much less successful but for an enthusiastic band of men who acted as referees – K. Read, C. Baker, R. Baker, A. Batich, D. Mollison, P. Mollison and R. Benedierks.

A third form of lacrosse was evolving, first known as soft lacrosse, was eventually named “sof-crosse”. It was originally designed for school children, but gradually attracted attention from adults. At the meeting of the Committee of Management of the VLA (20 March 1985) it was stated that Lacrosse Victoria had made a submission to Vicsport for a grant of \$30,000 based on the promotion of Sof-crosse in Victoria, and employing two additional people, one full time as director of Sof-crosse and two part time demonstrators.

The Committee of Management must have had faith in the long term benefits to be derived from “Sof-crosse”. This form of the game was earnestly discussed at the same meeting, when it was proposed that the Promotions and Development Officer be asked to promote the game of “Sof-crosse” as a top priority and that all kits be sold with promotional material if possible.

To what extent sof-crosse was responsible for the spread of the game is hard to assess, but it is certain that it was becoming better known and in more places. An article in the Nhill Free Press, 26 February 1985, gives an account of a demonstration match of lacrosse to take place at Netherby on Sunday 10 March at 11am between two leading lacrosse clubs, the clubs being the MCC and the North Adelaide club. It was to be a no holds barred pre-season contest, and the teams were to include such distinguished players as Ken Nichols, Australian Captain of the 84' Los Angeles World Series lacrosse, and Tom Hardy, defenceman selected in the same team, and Joe Vazzoler who won the Vince Healy trophy the year before, and several other Australian and state players.. Three of the members won Sportsmen of the year awards in 1984 – Tom, Joe and John McFall. Then follows a long and racy account of the game. The teams were to be accommodated at the Hyatt wheat shed as guests of George and Evelyn Larkin. A practice session was to be conducted at 2.30pm the preceding Saturday to which any who felt so inclined were invited to attend and perhaps receive a little private coaching. The people of Netherby were invited to share in a barbecue after the Sunday game. Why Netherby is asked? We believe this is where a former MCC player, George Larkins resided and was the local hotelier.

Only people well acquainted with the district knew the place. Whether the visit had anything to do with sof-crosse is doubtful. The contestants certainly would not have been interested in the game but, at least, lacrosse was somehow reaching the remote corners of Victoria. One advantage that sof crosse had over other forms was that it appealed equally to men and women. The VWLA proposed a joint meeting with the VLA to discuss the rules. At the meeting of the 8th July 1986 arrangements were made with the VWLA for a mixed sof crosse competition and approval of the expenditure of \$30 for engraving a perpetual trophy. The VWLA was invited to conduct the competition.

It was with regret that at the Victorian annual general meeting, 19 June 1986, members received the news of the resignation of the Promotions and Development Officer. Don Miller had worked successfully and indefatigably. He had been a bold pioneer. The directors of Lacrosse Victoria had appointed Mr John Mathwin of the Chadstone club, after considering a large number of applicants. The members expressed their sincere appreciation for the work Mr Don Miller had done during his six years in office for establishing lacrosse in schools and in assisting clubs generally. A suitable presentation was made.

We now turn our attention to lacrosse at the interstate level. It was a busy season. Contests were held at 5 levels, Seniors and Colts, Under 19, under 17 and under 15.

The senior championships were held in Adelaide.

The games were close contests, Vic 17 d SA 11.

Thus, after a gap of several seasons, Victoria won the championship and brought home the Garland – McHarg Cup.

The Colts championships were played in Victoria, the Altona club having undertaken the responsibility of looking after the ground and the social functions.

Unfortunately WA, which had given such a lead in establishing the Colts and junior championships were unable to send a team. The contest was close. The Victorian team defeated the SA 19-8 in very heavy conditions. competition.

The under 19 championships resulted also in a win for Victoria.

The Under 17 championships were held in Perth. WA fielded a sharp and cohesive team winning the final against SA by 18-6.

The Under 15 schoolboys Tournament was conducted at the same time as the Under 17 matches. The result was satisfying to the Victorians, they having won the final game against WA 10-8.

This busy interstate season must have cost a good deal of money, and there were critics who doubted if the array of under-age interstate contests was justified in terms of contribution to senior teams. A skilful computer operator might be able to calculate the number of players who passed through the junior interstate ranks and eventually represented their respective states at the senior level. Even if the result proved to be a little disappointing in mere mathematical digits, there can be no doubt that the experience of such travel could only be beneficial to the boys fortunate enough to represent their several states. Such trips must also have had a salutary effect in consolidating Commonwealth solidarity. Such things cannot be weighed and measured but are nevertheless very real.

At the international level 1986 was an unusually busy year. International contests involve a great deal of organization by the ALC. Not only must accommodation and fixtures be arranged but visas, passports, health certificates and all those elements of bureaucracy inherent in all travel must be arranged or supervised.

The first venture we will mention was the 4 week tour of the US and Canada organized for its under 14 boys. Doug Fox, Matt Foster and Bob Jackson spent three years preparing for the tour, and their endeavours were well rewarded. They played a total of 15 games, winning 11 and losing 4. They played field lacrosse in San Diego, Colorado and Vancouver Island, and box lacrosse in Calgary, Vancouver, and Vancouver Island. Such an experience of travel is a great supplement to any boy's education, and the Camberwell Club showed that its concern was with the welfare of the whole boy rather than only the boy as a prospective member of the senior club.

The Australian box lacrosse team travelled overseas in 1985, playing games in Vancouver, Toronto and Baltimore. Box lacrosse was attracting attention in Victoria, and it was essential that the general standard of the game should be raised. Standards are raised only by playing against better teams. At that stage the better teams were in the USA and Canada, and the tour of the box lacrosse side would produce valuable results in Australia. Victorians in the Australian box lacrosse team were:- Glen Meredith, Dean Mollison, Max Madonia, Gary Smithwick, Shane Hanniver, Rick Benedierks, Glen Mollison, Greg Mollison, Cam Miller, Richard tonelli, Steve Tester and Paul Mollison, who toured as playing coach.

Some teams from other countries came to play lacrosse in Australia. The USA Eagles were hosted by the Footscray Altona and Williamstown clubs. Two games were played between the billeters and the Eagles. The Eagles won 21-13 on the Sunday and 14-12 on the Monday. Alec Inglis and Ray Tatlow coached the billeters team at short notice, and John Nolan, John Harris and Alan Chiron gave their services as referees.

The Malvern and Eltham clubs played hosts to the San Diego Under 17 and Under 15 teams. Combined Malvern and Eltham teams played a game each in each grade at their home grounds, the home teams winning all games. The hosts also arranged sight-seeing, which was much appreciated by the visitors.

A Calgary Under 15 team was hosted by the Eltham club. During their one week stay they played two games against Eltham and one against Camberwell. Again the Canadians greatly enjoyed the sight-seeing arranged for them.

Lacrosse may be regarded condescendingly as a minor sport in Victoria, but is safe to say that no other sport had such wide representation overseas. Not only did lacrosse concern itself with the publicity of world competition at the adult levels, but it provided international experience at junior levels. Australian boys of all ages were given the opportunity of meeting under the best conditions boys from other countries. The same may be said of women's lacrosse, and of girls who took up the game. Unfortunately there is not space in this volume to detail the rapid expansion of the Victorian women's lacrosse association, the good work it did for girls, and the cooperation with the VLA. Lacrosse may be thought of as a minor sport, but its administration is in the hands of devoted and far-seeing men and women who give years of their lives to further the interests of the game they love so dearly.

A testimony to the care and wisdom of the officials conducting the VLA is the state of the total members funds as revealed in the statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 October 1986, which by that document was revealed to be \$64,304, with a capital projects fund amounting to \$33,865.

The great event of the 1986 season, of course, was the world championships held in Toronto. So that the Australian team might obtain the highest success of which it was capable the Australian lacrosse council set up the organization known as Challenge 86. This group made every endeavour to exploit the latest developments in sports training in general and on lacrosse skills in particular.

In conjunction with Challenge 86 another organization named Squad 90 was set up. It is evident that some players chosen for 1986 will have passed their peak four years later. A squad of 50-60 of the most promising young players, with ambitions to represent Australia chosen, and 20-25 of the most promising coaches and 20-25 administrators would be assembled. They would become acquainted with the coaching expertise and build up involved in the preparation of the team for Challenge 86. The establishment of this Squad 90 entailed that coaching and development would be progressive, rather than the stop-start approach of previous years.

For the first time the modern adjuncts and aids to coaching would be exploited. Research would be carried out into programmes relating to fitness, sports medicine and sports psychology which would be included in the overall training scheme. It was hoped that these improvements in coaching techniques would be financed by the sports Science Research Foundation to the amount of \$15,900.

To implement these new concepts the following professional practitioners were appointed.

Physiotherapy

Louisa Remedios held a degree in applied science in physiotherapy and a graduate diploma in physiotherapy (sports). Her experience was as physiotherapist to the Footscray Football Club's Under 19 team, part-time locum at the Western Suburbs Sports medical Centre, part of a medical team supporting a runner in the Melbourne-Sydney marathon, and voluntary service in events such as Australia Games, and the National Hockey Championships.

Psychology

Constructive programmes in sports psychology were given by Dr Noel L. Blundell. He proposed a course in psychological profiling, which would indicate which athletes were likely to be successful, and why. It would assess the athlete's ability to cope with pressure – those like to “choke” and those likely to “rise to the occasion”. It would evaluate the athlete's willingness or need to dominate his opponent and to take charge at moments of crisis. The athlete's capacity to “read the game” would be tested. Relationships between player-player, player-coach, player-coach-manager interaction would be explored. Making the best use of the individual player and bring their play to its highest potential was a great asset to coaches. Such concepts, common enough now among athletes at the highest levels, were revolutionary then.

Another service offered was the provision of a player profiling passage which would estimate the strengths and weaknesses of players, and recommendations for remedial action where necessary.

A psychomotor and psychological profile was offered. This revealed such things as the players speed of reaction in 100th of a second, complex decision making in 100th of a second, arm and hand movements in 100th of a second, and peripheral vision was tested, and such things as possible colour-blindness.

These and other aids were available. They were not cheap, but, if their conclusions were valid, could greatly assist coaches in producing the best teams possible from the material available.

The team doctor was to be Dr Peter Larkins. He was highly qualified and specialized in sports medicine. Having been awarded the Robert Menzies Travelling Fellowship in Sports Medicine, was a research fellow of the Department of surgery at the Alfred Hospital. In practical experience he had 9 years experience with a Victorian league football team, and was honorary medical officer of the Victorian Athletic Union, the Victorian Athletic Association, the Victorian Cricked Association and the Victorian Marathon Club. He had been a member of the Australian track and field team from 1967 to 1983.

Such a man would be invaluable not only on tour, but assessing the fitness of team members before the final team selected left for overseas, as well as the treatment of long term injuries. It is thus evident that the ALC intended to take advantage of all the latest developments in sports preparation and have them applied to international lacrosse teams. The expertise achieved at the top level would gradually extend its benefits to every level of lacrosse.

A difficulty that always confronts selectors of Australian national sides is the distance that separates team members in the various states. They can play together as a unit only rarely before the actual tour begins. But training for an international event must be long and thorough. An exhaustive and exhausting course of pre-season training was therefore devised. It had been observed that Australian teams were noticeably less fit than American teams, and the programme was devised to remedy this.

The intention was that during the months of January, February and March should develop a foundation of strength, power, endurance and anaerobic endurance, so that ultimately all work could be performed at speed.

Players were expected to start the programme in the week commencing 20 January 1986 and continue it for 10 weeks. A follow-up programme was to be provided to begin on 17 March 1986.

The ALC had now to turn its attention to selecting men to carry out the various duties associated with creating and maintaining a team. The organization scheme was:-

The key part of the diagram is shown previously, therefore not repeated.

Statistician G. Gatley (SA)

Referees G. Reddaway (Vic) & F. Hastings (WA)

Doctor P. Larkins (Vic)

Physiotherapist L. Remedios (Vic)

In a release to the press the team for Challenge 86 was announced:-

Peter Cann (WA), Phil Ackland (WA), Steve Mounsey (WA), Graeme Fox (Vic), Ray Duthy (SA), Gordon Purdie (Vic), John Butkiewicz (Vic), Peter Brown (SA), Paul Furtado (Vic), Glen Revell (SA), Jeff Kennedy (WA), Chris Hockey (WA), Denis Newman (Vic), Tom Hardy (Vic), Rod Ansell (Vic), Bruce Freeman (Vic), Mark Balinski (WA), Rick Tillotson (Vic), Ken Nichols (Vic), Peter Morley (Vic), Cliff Jennings (Vic), Mark Haddad (Vic), David Robinson (WA), Tony Marletta (WA) and Jeff Campbell (Vic).

The itinerary for the tour was (page deliberately omitted) – 2 July 1986 to 26 July 1986

It may now be a suitable time to see the championships from the other side, for such an event invokes the expenditure of much money, energy and wisdom.

The whole scale upon which the championships could be carried out depended on finance.

The main fund-raising organization was known as "Friends of lacrosse". Its purpose was wider than the carrying out of a single event. Lacrosse was the national game of Canada, and the general purpose of the organization was stated as being "to bring together those participants, past and present, who feel an affinity for Canada's oldest sport. Following World Lacrosse 86, and with any proceeds from this exciting event, we will be forming a non-profit lacrosse foundation with these friends of founding members" (World Lacrosse 86 – page 28).

To raise funds specifically for the 1986 championships World Lacrosse 86 Canada employed the firm of Christopher Lange and Associates. They obtained cash sponsorship from two equipment manufacturers, Brine and STX. They felt confident of reaching the budgeted corporate funds.

The principal reason for the expense was to meet the ILF agreement to provide accommodations for each country's official parties of 31 members, beginning with the arrival date of Sunday, July 13, 1986, and ending with their departure on Sunday July 27, 1986.

There would certainly be supporter groups. These were not the direct responsibility of the world lacrosse 86 organizers. Nevertheless, they opened up negotiations with the University of Toronto for reasonable rates for visiting spectators. Special rates for visitors were also negotiated with the Victoria University and St Hilda's College, which would provide bed and breakfast accommodation.

A suitable site to mount the great event had to be sought. The choice fell upon the University of Toronto's stadium. It had seating for 20,000 spectators, a beautiful natural turf surface and was centrally located. In the immediate vicinity were several hotels.

A series of practice games were arranged for the competing teams so that they could become accustomed to Canadian interpretations of the rules, and fine tune their own tactics and techniques.

Finally all preliminary arrangements were completed. The games would be televised, CBC screening the championship games and TSN the other games. Negotiations were underway with the American sports network. Travel arrangements were completed, the concluding banquet was arranged.

Finally, what sort of performance were the spectators in Canada led to expect. This may be gauged by an article written by Mary Ormsley of the Toronto Star. "National lacrosse team captain John (Stud) Grant flashed a toothless grin while explaining Canada's delicate strategy for this week's world field lacrosse championship. "You don't hesitate to slash or hack or do whatever it takes to win" said the 35 year old Peterborough native, a member of Canada's 1978 world championship squad, after yesterday's practice at the University of Toronto's Hoskin Avenue field. "It's a rough game, there's no doubt about it" the 6'6" attacker continued, although his toothless grin was not the result of a lacrosse encounter, he lost his front teeth in a Junior B hockey team.

The game played on a football field, is extremely physical. The 10 man teams (one goalie, three defenders, three midfielders and three attackers) fire the rock hard India rubber ball at speeds of up to 100 miles/hour (160kph) around the field, jockeying for a scoring position. It's not unusual for 40 goals to be scored in one game.

Bodychecking, as in ice-hockey, is an integral part of lacrosse for halting scoring drives or forcing turnovers. However, body-checks aren't for ball carriers alone; one rule allows that players without the ball but within nine feet of it can be taken out of play. A check cannot be thrown from behind and the only mandatory protective gear for players are gloves and helmets with face masks.

"Lacrosse is a quick running game, with shifts changing on the go as in ice-hockey. The midfield line is the most frequently substituted, switching every 2.5 minutes on the average. A game consists of 25 minute quarters, followed by two four minute overtime periods if the game ends in a tie. Should the game remain drawn after overtime, sudden death is employed, with teams switching every two minutes.

"The Americans have been playing field lacrosse as long as we've played box lacrosse, and they are truly awesome, especially their technical skills" said Grant, who is a Coca-Cola salesman when he's not playing lacrosse."

And now we return to the recently arrived Australians. We turn the report to the ALC provided by the Executive Director, Doug Fox, the Assistant Manager, Peter Smirk.

The first stop in the USA was at San Francisco. The late arrival of the plane curtailed the planned activities. However, there was time for the group to begin to shake down as a team. Members from different states began to get to know one another, and team strategies could be introduced in a light and relaxed schedule. The San Francisco University provided excellent accommodation, meals and training facilities.

The team then moved on to Baltimore, where their hosts were the Mount Washington Lacrosse Club. Everything was extremely well organized. Intensive, daily training could be carried out. Two night matches had been arranged. In the first of these the Australian team beat the Latshaw club 33-11, and was beaten by 16-15 by the Mount Washington club. The attendances were good, and the Australian share of the gate receipts brought in US\$2,000.

The Australians found the heat and humidity exhausting, and a rather too busy social programme left the team a little below its fittest. Morale and confidence was high.

From Baltimore they proceeded to Toronto. The accommodation and meals were adequate. The team still were not fully acclimatized to the heat and humidity, and the quarters were found to be noisy. Practice was diligent, and practice matches were played. Not the least important of these, though perhaps not very satisfactory from the team preparation point of view was a game against the Iroquois Nationals Lacrosse team. The day was planned with the utmost generosity, though more as a social event than a serious preparation for the championships.

The plan for the day was:-

9am	leave Toronto for Niagara Falls
10.30 am	Arrive at Falls for sight seeing
12 noon	lunch at the Turtle – national Indian Art Centre in Niagara Falls
1pm	Leave for University of Buffalo (30 minutes)
3.30pm	Game time
5.30pm	Leave for Tuscarora Indian reservation (30 mins). Dinner with chiefs, clan mothers, players and supporters. Gift exchange between officials.

Such an invitation was a high compliment to the Australian team. The “Red Indians” took pride in their nationhood, and lacrosse was their particular contribution to civilization, as is shown by the covering letter.

HAUDENOSAUNEE

Mohawk – Oneida – Onondaga – Cayuga – Seneca – Tuscarora –
Onondaga Station – Via Box 319B
Nedrow New York 13120

The badge of the Nations occupies one corner of the letterhead.

Greetings,

The Haudenosaunee (Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy) Council of Chiefs wishes to inform you that the Iroquois National Lacrosse Team is the official sanctioned international representative of the Haudenosaunees.

The organization was sanctioned in the spring of 1983 to take part in the international competition sponsored by the Lacrosse hall of Fame, Baltimore, Maryland.

Since that time the organization has continued to develop and raise its level of competition in order to continue the tradition of lacrosse with our

people (The originators of the game) and to promote the game internationally.

The youth of the nation is its primary treasure and legacy. The game of lacrosse is one of our most revered traditions, spiritually and as a celebration of health, strength, courage and fair play.

It is in this spirit we present our youth internationally to offer what we can to further the efforts already put forth by the International Lacrosse Federation.

(Signed) Tadodako

Chief Leon Shenandoah, and Mrs Audrey Shenandoah

The scores in the matches were:-

Match 1	USA 18	Australia 12
Match 2	Canada 15	England 12
Match 3	England 11	Australia 17
Match 4	Canada 11	USA 21
Match 5	England 8	USA 32
Match 6	Canada 17	Australia 14

Consolation final – Australian 22 d England 6

Championship final USA 17 d Canada 9

The championship placings therefore were USA (1st), Canada (2nd), Australia (3rd) & England (4th).

Australia took some consolation from the fact that P. Cann was chosen as the best player of the series.

P. Cann and J. Kennedy were selected in the World team.

After having put so much thought, work and money into fielding the team, the result was a little disappointing for the Australians. The causes for the relatively poor showing of the Australian team were carefully examined by the managerial officials, and suggestions for better success in future championships were made.

First of all, probably the coaches and the players were not fully acquainted with the most up to date training techniques. Barry Stewart in his report suggested that emphasis should be placed on the team for the junior World Series scheduled for 1988. This age group of players being the one which would most readily respond to new ideas and develop good training habits. It would be a good age at which to master good running techniques, both with and without the stick. Weights in all forms of athletic activity were being increasingly used, and younger players could be more effectively trained in their correct and valuable use. They were also at an age when they could develop high degrees of skill, not only as a result of skills practice, and also through developing a high degree of strength, speed, power and ability appropriate to their field positions.

These principles should also be comprehended by coaches, and every effort should be made to better qualify coaches in charge of teams. He emphasized that good coaching was particularly desirable among younger teams. Doug Fox, in his report supported these conclusions. He believed that the Australian team was lacking in many departments at the level of international competition, not the least of which was experience in international competition. There was a feeling that the Australians were too easily attracted to social occasions. These are necessary, but moderation is wise. There are times however, when outside influences might have a bearing of accepting or refusing invitations. The game against the Iroquois was not stiff enough to be useful as pre-tournament training. But

Australia had its own indigenous problems, and the last thing it could afford to do politically, was to give offence to indigenous American people by refusing their generous invitation.

The Assistant Manager, Peter Smirk, raised a number of important matters. One was that of team discipline. Apparently interstate jealousies had an adverse effect. Mr Smirk felt that all possible steps should be taken to prevent the forming of cliques, or club or state bias. He suggested that careful "pairing" of room-mates would be wise.

He was also a little sceptical of the coaching strategy. He felt that a better result might have been achieved under the guidance of a single, strong coach, assisted by advisers if necessary, rather than by three separate and almost autonomous coaches. Teams, like human beings, are one, and responsibility for development should not be fragmented. He suggested that in selection emphasis should be placed on genuine two-handed players. At first sight it may not seem to matter which hand dominated the throw. In fact, as all experienced coaches know ambidexterity of hand or foot, concerns the ability to turn, and a player who can turn with equal facility on one foot or the other, giving him choice of direction is a much more difficult opponent than one who always turns in the same direction.

There is no doubt that the Australian team had set out with the highest hopes, but was found to be technically inferior to the American and Canadian teams, and also lacking in that persistence and determination that make up the "will to win". Finally, Doug Fox, in his report suggested that the rules of international lacrosse needed further amendment. He felt that it was not the thrilling spectacle that it could become. This was largely due to the American style of play. He felt that the American game had become stereotyped, with constant stoppages to substitute specialist players or units; slow clears against zone side; isolations for one-on-one dodging attacks. All this produced a very slow and predictable pattern.

Australia was equally at fault, despite their game plans to produce a running, attacking style. The opponents seemed able to close up the play and prevent dash and movement. He believed that this arose from the number of players used, and in the way in which the American rules interpretations and style dominated the international scene. He found that the English officials concurred with his views. The two countries decided to join forces in trying to limit the team to 16 players, thus developing greater player versatility, and reducing, to a minimum, unnecessary stoppages in the run of play. He felt also that the Canadians might support such reform if tactfully approached. This may have been more hopeful than real for the links between the Canadian field game and the American College Associations were strong.

Obviously the Australian Lacrosse Council was keen to win the 1990 championships, and to host them, as it had contracted to, in spite of the great amount of money that would have to be raised.

The season of 1988 was one of great interest at all levels. So far as numbers are concerned, the position is a little confusing. If registered players is the criterion there was room for some anxiety, as these figures show a steady decline. But the character of lacrosse was changing through modifications of rules to bring the game to a wider range of people. Mod-crosse, and sof-crosse were played in many schools and organizations, but the increase in the overall level of players involved is not an element in the calculations. Thus, a fall of 100 registered players in the Australian Lacrosse Council reports is offset by a large but indefinite number of players taking part in these "lead up" codes to the ultimate senior game.

There were encouraging signs that the game was gaining a footing in non-lacrosse playing states. New ground was opened up by the formation of a Northern Territory Lacrosse Association; whose members displayed great enthusiasm under the leadership of their

President, Jim Hopkins. Exchange visits between South Australia and the Northern Territory Associations were anticipated in 1989.

In Queensland, interest in lacrosse was being received. A four day tournament was conducted at Caboolture at which a Victorian team and a representative Queensland team participated. Things looked promising. Overseas, the future looked even more encouraging. It was reported that over 500 players were registered in the Tokyo area of Japan, and that there was a similar number of players in Czechoslovakia (Pilsen).

The following letter received by Clive Carr, shows how lacrosse was spreading in Europe. Dated 13 August 1988, it stated:-

“Dear Sir,

I would like to inform the International Lacrosse Federation through you, its President, of the efforts being made at present to make Sweden a lacrosse playing country.

In January of this year I contacted the lacrosse foundation and talked with Steve Stenerson about getting the equipment needed for a start-up program. On the 4th of June the first lacrosse practice was held in Sweden. We have practised two or three times a week since then and October will be moving indoors to train throughout the winter. It is our intention to practise year round for the next three years in preparation for the 1990 World Games. Hopefully before our appearance there we will have travelled to every lacrosse playing country and played a number of exhibition games in each.

At this time I am asking you for information concerning participation in the 1990 World Games, deadlines to apply for entry, restrictions, qualification, meetings concerning the games, and so forth.

I am enclosing a copy of an article which appeared in Sweden's largest newspaper. The English translation is my own. I look forward to hearing from the International lacrosse Federation and keeping it informed of our progress.

Sincerely

(signed) Jack Straw

President YMCA Stockholm Lacrosse Club”

The translation of the newspaper article follows:-

Lacrosse – a sport with ancestry

The Indians played it a thousand years ago. Jesuit missionaries named it 400 years ago. Now lacrosse has come to Sweden. People strolling by “the field” this summer have stopped to witness something totally new; sportsmen equipped with net-like poles, thundering after a hard rubber ball which they try to hurl into an overgrown hockey goal. The strollers in other words have seen Sweden's first group of lacrosse players, a sport so new here, its first club was formed just three days ago. Lacrosse is a team sport, which has a good chance of catching on in Sweden, says Jack Straw, a 26 year old American who introduced the sport here this summer.

A Crosse each

Lacrosse at first glance appears unlike any other sport but has some of the same ideas as hockey, basketball and team hand-ball. A team is comprised of 3 attackmen, 3 midfielders, 3 defencemen and one goalie. The attackmen confine

themselves to the offensive end of the field, while the defenders remain on the defensive end.

The midfielders, however, cover the whole field, which is 100 metres long and 55 metres wide. Every player is equipped with a "crosse". the net-like stick that gives the game its character.

"Lacrosse is a game which has everything," according to Straw, " it is a fitness-filled sport with speed, contact, precision and grace. In the US and Canada it is very common for hockey players to play lacrosse in the summer to keep in shape. National sport.

Actually, the game is Canada's national sport, and not hockey as many in Sweden assume" explains Jack.

Jack Straw got excited about lacrosse while attending a hockey camp in Canada as a boy one summer. He quickly discovered that he enjoyed playing lacrosse more than hockey, and when he went to college he looked for a school with a lacrosse team. Jack became one of the University of Wisconsin's stars while he studied Scandinavian Studies. In 1983 he came for a visit to Sweden to try out his Swedish.

"I discovered that lacrosse was totally unknown here. That seemed strange since Swedes love team-orientated sports" says Jack. "In England they have played for a long time". – Deerskin ball!

Jack explains that the game was played by the American Indians as a preparation for battle. Sometimes there could be as many as 1,000 players on a field that was miles long. The ball was the size of a tennis ball and made of wood or deer-skin, filled with deer hair.

The Jesuit missionaries named it in the 1600's. They thought the Indians implement was like the Bishop's crosier (Crosse) and when the game was adopted by the white settlers it was called lacrosse.

In 1985 Jack returned to Sweden totally convinced lacrosse had a future here.

"I quickly discovered it was a little difficult to try to get people interested in something which could hardly be explained for those who had never seen it. But I contacted the Lacrosse Foundation in America which helped get film and equipment to me. Last Monday Jack and the first Swedish pioneers founded Sweden's first lacrosse club, YMCA Stockholm Lacrosse Club, which has 23 members today. Hans Anderson (23) is one of them. He plays bandy during the winter and heard from priests about lacrosse.

"I have played for 2 months now, am just really getting into the game. It is varied and fast-paced.

A league in Stockholm

"It took a while to learn all the rules but that's always the way in a totally new game. It's just too bad that there are so few of us, the closest opponent is in England....

If Jack Straw's expectations are fulfilled Stockholm could soon have its own league as soon as next year.

The big goal is to build a national team which could travel to the lacrosse-playing countries – USA, Canada, England and Australia. Interested players (even women) can come out to "the field" (behind the film house) Tuesdays and Thursdays".

Thus the development of lacrosse at an international level showed much promise.

The event which aroused most public interest was the International U19 tournament staged by the SALA as the contribution of lacrosse to the Australian Bi-centenary in 1988. The federal government demonstrated its faith in lacrosse by making grants to the ALC amounting to \$67,000.

The international U19 championships deserve to be recorded in more detail, not only for their own value but also for their national significance, being part of the Australian Bicentenary celebrations.

The SALA had undertaken to host the championships, and preparations had been in hand since 1987. A new lacrosse and hockey facility had been started, but by Bulletin No.3 we are informed of anxiety as to whether it would be completed in time. Much depended on the attitude of the state government, which was faced with that constant problem of government - cutting expenditure. Much therefore depended on the decisions of the government as to which projects should be continued and which should be deleted. Fortunately the new lacrosse venue was among the projects to be completed. Tenders had been called for by the end of July. The work would include a new pavilion and a new playing area.

Other details were completed in 1987. The special logo had been finished and approved by the ALC.

The format of the final dinner was changed. A smorgasbord meal would be provided, thought there would be seating, instead of the traditional "black tie" dinner.

Much work had been done on obtaining sponsorship and support from Ansett Airlines. All teams were therefore requested to fly Ansett if possible. Accommodation had been arranged with Immanuel College. Bed and breakfast would be supplied, but lunch and dinner could be had at nominal rates (Lunch \$3).

The accommodation was suitable for teams. Extra beds could be made available. As the showers were communal, female guests could not be accommodated. The boarding supervisors' rooms would be suitable for referees. Separate class-rooms would be available to each team for coaching sessions. Laundry services were available through coin-in-the-slot machines. A safe was available for the storage of valuables. Extra people, over 31 official representatives, could be accommodated at a cost of \$16 per day/head. There would be a gymnasium available during the day for training sessions, but not at night. Pay phones were available. The accommodations seemed eminently suitable for official team members. Support groups could be accommodated at holiday flats at nearby Glenelg.

Through Bulletin 5 we learn that W.A. Brine & Co, makers of lacrosse equipment had agreed to sponsor, not only an Under 19 tournament, but U17 and U15 at the same time. The Brine Company hoped all teams would wear their Lacrosse 88 logo on their uniforms.

The Lord Mayor of Adelaide had invited all 31 members of the team to attend a reception at the Adelaide Town Hall at 5pm, on 7 July. The army band would provide music at the opening ceremony.

The Adelaide Association intimated that it needed the names of such referees, bench officials, and medical personnel the visiting teams intended to bring; also the names of members of teams and their photographs, with other relevant information.

Bulletin No. 6 informs us that the new venue would be finished by the end of May. The playing surface would be the artificial Supergrass 10. To provide activity for senior enthusiasts a "Masters competition" would be organized. It would be organized at two levels, over 40, and 35-39. It would be played under Modcrosse rules, which allow no body-checking and no stick checking. The players would lunch together, one hour for the game, and 2 hours for lunch, thus providing ample time for renewing acquaintances and consolidating old friendships.

The SA association had been in touch with the Australia-Canada Association, The Australia-America Association, and the Australia-British Association, to notify them of the visit, and suggested they might wish to lend moral support.

The ILF had decided to present a cup to the winning team, one for the most valuable player and trophies for members of the eventual All-Stars team. These would be presented at the official dinner.

The SA association had left nothing to chance in their outstanding arrangements for the Bi-Centennial Under 19 World Championships.

The names of the Australian representatives in this important event should be included:- Greg Larwood, Craig Warne, Danny Rattenni, Jim Mihelios, Rick Van Dam, Sean Kelly, Scott Griffin, Scott Maynard, Chris Warren, Gerard Wills, Mark Jackson, Stephen Scammell, Adrian Skepper, Tony Colfer, Sean Slattery, Carl Radford, Matthew Arthur, Simon Penglis, Spiro Melissovas, Stuart Burrows, Paul Cook, Mark Whiteman, Craig Everall, Dale Roberts, Aaron Stubbs & Cameron Toomey.

Officials:- Murray Redfern (Campaign Director), John Carter (Head Coach), Klay Johnson (Asst Coach), Michael Hilsberg (Team Manager), Phillip Kestel (Asst Team Manager) & Barry Stewart (Fitness Coordinator).

Referees: John Nolan (Australia), Peter Noble (Australia), Graham Lester (England), Ron Duke (England), Jake Curran (USA), George Cruz (USA), Joe Murray (Canada) & Jim Price (Canada).

The scores for the tournament were:-

Match 1	Australia 26	d	England 6
Match 2	USA 16	d	Canada 11
Match 3	Canada 13	d	England 12
Match 4	USA 20	d	Australia 12
Match 5	USA 28	d	England 5
Match 6	Canada 12	d	Australia 11

Consolation final	Australia 23	d	England 3
Final	USA 12	d	Canada 5

The trophy for the most valuable player of the series was awarded to P. McCabe of the USA. Australians selected in the World Series team were C. Radford and S. Griffin.

The senior national championships had one distinguishing feature. A team from Yale University (USA) was visiting Australia at the time, and it was arranged that they should take part in the championships in place of the second home state team. The results of the senior national championships, held in Adelaide, the final won by WA 15 v Vic 12.

It is evident from the scores that several closely matched games were played. Klay Johnson (WA) was deemed the best and fairest player.

Under 17 championships were also played in Adelaide, final SA 9 v Vic 20

Under 15 tournaments also in Adelaide, final WA 13 v Vic 16

During 1988 the ALC decided to establish the title of "Fellow", for outstanding contribution to Australian lacrosse. The following awards were made:-

Henry Volk (Victoria)
Don Hobbs (SA)
Clive Carr (SA)
Laurie Turnbull (WA)
Harold Horner (WA)

Len Berry (WA)

Lacrosse other than the field game maintained progress. Box lacrosse was played at the Footscray Indoor Sports Centre. Six teams took part in a competition that lasted 13 weeks, seven before Christmas and 6 after. The winners of the Read Cup (Senior A final) were the Renegades, and the L. W. Taylor Cup (Senior B final) was won by the Warriors. The prestigious Past President's trophy for service to the VLA was awarded to Michael Hilsberg for his long association with VLA and ALC administration. Indoor soft lacrosse continued successfully. Ten teams and 102 players took part in an enjoyable competition.

The annual report concluded with the injunction that "Our standing committees must respond to the difficult areas of our game or we are going to be left further and further behind. If you consider the growth of soccer about ten years ago, the explosion of basketball in the past two years, and the present planning of the National Baseball competition, we must get off our backsides and help ourselves. It's a fact that kids won't become any easier to recruit with all these profile sports to choose from, so each club must do their own little bit and recruit a good supply of juniors and at least get some publicity in their local papers.

The 1989 junior gymkhana, which had become so regular a feature among junior lacrosse players was cancelled; but this was due to inclement weather. The work of lacrosse Victoria continued with unabated vigour. They produced the invaluable Lacrosse Magazine, for which there were 700 subscribers.

Its main thrust was still in primary schools, but in 1989 a trend became evident towards taking the sport into high and public schools. Equipment had been hired out to 27 schools, for as long as two months, sof-crosse was played in 30 schools in Melbourne and the metropolitan area. Sof-crosse was numbered among the top 8 sports played in Victorian schools. Its growth was reported to have exceeded that of all other sports.

To transfer this increase to activity on a permanent basis was the problem. First of all, there were many other activities being offered. When the statistics state that lacrosse was in the top 8 sports being played in schools, it is not to be assumed that those playing lacrosse did not also take part in other games. Unless the sale pitch of lacrosse clubs was very persuasive, few young people wish to be tied down regularly to any activity. Membership of a club, and participation in a team implies consent to play regularly, Saturday after Saturday. While many young people may have been ready to play the occasional game on Saturday and be left free for other interests on other Saturdays, as they could, say, in social tennis, they may not have had the dedication to commit themselves regularly. It seems certain that Lacrosse Victoria was doing excellent work, and it is probable that field lacrosse obtained its fair share of recruits for regular competition. The real test was the persuasion clubs could exert. It may also explain the shift in numerical ascendancy that occurred between clubs. For instance, in, say, the 60s Caulfield and Malvern were the strongest clubs in numbers, whereas in 1989 Caulfield had only 30 registered players, while Altona had 71.

Internationally 1989 was a remarkable year. Lacrosse now had a beach-head in many European countries. An Australian box lacrosse team was invited to visit Czechoslovakia. It was felt that such a history making tour of a Eastern Block nation should not be allowed to pass. The public information was sent out to Graham Sharpe, and was supported in Australia by Rick Benedierks, Ken Read and Graham Sharpe.

The movement developed into a Nations 89 lacrosse tournament. The teams taking part were to be Canada, Quebecois, Iroquois and England. At the same time a sof-crosse tournament was to be held, with teams from France, Belgium, Scotland, England, Italy, Japan, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, USA, Canada, Quebec and Iroquois.

Participation by Australian representatives was ratified by the ALC. The team from Australia was to be known as "An Australian Touring Lacrosse Team (Minutes of board of directors 18 March 1989). The duration of the proposed tour was departure from Melbourne on 23 July 1989, practice matches would be held in Vancouver, Canada, with box and mini lacrosse in Czechoslovakia on 9 August. The group would return to Melbourne on 12 August. The cost of the tour was estimated at \$2,800.

Also in 1989 a visit by an Australian team to Japan was organised. This tour was to begin on 13 June and return on 21 June. Competitors at these "Friendship games" in Japan included a team from the USA. The Japanese authorities did their utmost to provide suitable hospitality and facilities for their visitors. One must remember that this was an important political period between the USA, Australia and Japan. There can be little doubt that the games were to some extent conducted to remove the ill-feeling between Japan and its principal World War 2 antagonists. The Japanese Foreign Office issued an official blessing of the tour.

It is thus described in correspondence contained in the ALC files:-

"Those of the foreign ministry and other Japanese who have seen it are very shocked. This is a rare document. I suppose in their context after 1,000 years of proven history or significant events such as the arrival of the Queen of England such pronouncements are made. I would strongly urge your dissemination to all concerned. The Japanese consider it's a bit more lofty and unusual than a decree from the President of the United States."

The Australian lacrosse team for the Japan tour of 1989 were:-

Glenn Meredith (Co Capt) Vic, Tim Keen (Co Capt) SA, Phil Acland WA, Brett Barnard Vic, Tony Calfer WA, Tim Colcohoun SA, Robin Cornish WA, Cameron Gibson Vic, Scot Griffen WA, John Hiron WA, , Sean Kelly WA, Greg Jarwood SA, Spiro Melissovas Vic, Carl Radford Vic, Glen Morley WA, Tim Murphy Vic, Peter Rapaic WA, Michael Seakamp Vic, Brad Skepper Vic.

Alternates: Adrian Skepper Vic, Paul Furtado Vic, Sean Slattery Vic & Alan Gibbs WA

Head Coach Bill Stahmer

Manager Fergus Stewart

Referees Mike Slattery and Gordon Elder

Executive Director Peter Hobbs

Peter Hobbs was given the onerous task of assessing the quality of Japanese lacrosse with a view to their entry into the world championships.

Unfortunately, no details are to be found among the files concerning the actual play, but the minutes of the ALC directors meeting of the 30 November 1989 contain the paragraph " Mr Humphreys then referred to the highly successful visit by an Australian team to Japan paying tribute to all who participated.

1991 was up to that time the most momentous season in Australian lacrosse, not only because of the events that took place, but also the implications arising from how lacrosse was no longer a limited game played by an esoteric few. It was now played in three continents and at least seven countries. The implications of these developments on the responsibilities and resources of the International Lacrosse Council were innumerable. If, by its wise direction the in the countries where lacrosse was now being introduced, the game achieved a sufficient importance, lacrosse international championships would become real world events. Australian had the honour of conducting the first world championships of the coming era.

But we must keep our feet on the ground. Wherever, and however lacrosse is played, the game depends on the primary unit – the club player who personally and individually supports his club and his association by active and regular participation. The recruit of today is the champion of the day after tomorrow. No associations will prosper unless its first objective is to provide club members with an adequate week-to-week competition. We may therefore first consider the activities in Victoria at this first level.

Three things are necessary for the week –to-week competition to thrive: an adequate supply of recruits; a creditable degree of skill in the techniques of the game; and efficient conduct of the game on the field.

There was a shift in emphasis towards recruiting, largely through the work of Lacrosse Victoria, whereas a few years ago the main thrust was to encourage the establishment of new clubs, by financial assistance and guidance from the association, the current trend was to introduce as many young people as possible to the game of lacrosse. This was done by taking the game to the schools, and by modifying its rules and practice to suit the maturity of the children involved. Full scale field lacrosse was not suitable for young children. Thus a form of lacrosse was devised for the younger children. While embodying the broad principles of tactics and stick work, Soft – lacrosse, or “sof-crosse” as it came to be known, removed rough and dangerous elements of the game. Parents are inclined to be wary of games for young children which may cause them pain or injury. Sof-crosse therefore met a need, but many children found it unrewarding as they matured. Thus modified, or mod-crosse, came into being as an intermediate stage between sof-crosse and adult field lacrosse.

It would be too optimistic to anticipate that all children exposed to sof-crosse would eventually join the ranks of adult field lacrosse, but there is evidence that many of them did. Innovations in gradings and fixtures were made for junior lacrosse were devised for junior lacrosse, by Ray Shannon, the director for junior promotions. It must be noted that these concerned the conduct of games by clubs, officially, with a proper system of registration and conduct. As will be seen by the result sheets, this activity increased the interest in the already organized clubs. An innovation was the introduction of an under 11 section, of which there were eleven teams drawn from 6 clubs. Sof-crosse was played during the first half of the season and mod-crosse during the second half. As an introduction there was a mini-season to allow clubs to sort out players. One result was the increase in junior registrations. From 522 to 579. The success of the scheme overall and also to individual clubs was the amount of interest and energy clubs were able to bring to bear on schools. Lucky was the club which could find a member, or a number of members, who would give up time to encouraging junior players.

A further impetus was given to junior lacrosse by the visit of two teams from the USA. The Kingswood-Oxford High School visited Victoria in a tour that included South Australia. Their hosts in Victoria were the Altona and Williamstown clubs. A team from the Connecticut Valley College also paid a visit to Australia. Their hosts were the Surrey Park club. Both visits were highly successful and deeply appreciated by the visitors. Such experiences were valuable not only immediately to lacrosse, but also to the general education of boys at an impressionable age.

At the senior level there was some disappointment in that there was a reduction of two in the teams entered for pennant competition. At the top level, the State League, 11 teams were entered, and Williamstown gained the premiership. In Division 1 Malvern emerged as premiers among 8 teams. Division 2 had the same number of teams, and the premiership was won by Footscray. Division 3 had only 5 teams, the premiership being won by MCC.

Interstate rivalry was intense, and to keep up with one another, vigorous coaching schemes were applied. Upon the success of the schemes the fortunes of the individual states, and of the national team, depended. In Victoria, Ray Trevaskis, the national Coaching Director, instructed the VLA coaches in their coaching programme. The Victorian and MCC coach, Bill Stahmer was selected for the national side. A lacrosse player himself since the age of 9, in 1958. He was an Australian representative in 1970, 72, and 79; national coach 1988-1992, and Victorian coach since 1985. He believed in discipline on – field, off field and anywhere in between. His no-nonsense requirements were not always immediately understood by players selected from other states, but he communicated well, and got his managers of discipline and fitness across to members of Australian teams very soon after they came under his influence.

The conduct of the game on the field depends upon referees. In this matter, Victoria was fortunate. The Victorian branch of the Australian Lacrosse Referees Association was single minded in making sure that its members were as efficient as it was possible. They were most business-like, presented accurate reports and maintained harmonious relationships with the VLA assessors.

In general it is safe to say that the affairs of lacrosse were vigorously and efficiently conducted by the VLA and Lacrosse Victoria.

One feature disturbed them. This was the falling away in inter-varsity lacrosse. In 1990 there was no competition between the Australian universities, not even the traditional match between Adelaide and Melbourne. Knowing that the strength of American lacrosse came from the universities, the VLA considered ways in which the interest in lacrosse at tertiary levels might be stimulated.

The greatest activity in lacrosse in 1990 took place in Perth. The pinnacle of lacrosse achievement lies in conducting a world championship and this privilege was accorded to the Western Australian Lacrosse Association. Under franchise from the ALC, they managed the great event with consummate skill. Not only did they host the world championship, but they organized simultaneously the Australian championships, and also carnivals for Under 17 and Under 15 players.

It was the ambition of all Australian lacrosse to defeat the USA. The ALC believed that it had a reasonable chance of achieving this goal, and spared no expense or labour in preparing a team which might achieve their ambition.

As we have already seen, preparation of the team began at least two years before the actual championships. Detailed training and fitness programmes had been drawn up. Their application was left largely to the responsibility of individuals selected for the 1990 championship squad. They would be assisted and supervised by assistant coaches in each state, under head coach, Bill Stahmer of Victoria. As a final step in preparation Stahmer strongly urged a preliminary tour of the USA, in which the ALC concurred. The squad from which the eventual team would be drawn had been selected. Trials were conducted in Adelaide so that the final touring team could be selected.

Bill Stahmer was aghast at the attitude of some of the players. It was felt, not least by him, that some of the selected players had a far better opinion of their own skills than reality warranted. As Stahmer had shown in Victoria, and at the MCC club, he was a man of ruthless and resolute action. He immediately removed from the touring team a number of players on the grounds of lack of commitment and courtesy. He felt that the fitness trials held in Adelaide were a disgrace due to the degree of fitness achieved by some players and their general attitude. Among younger players he found a certain complacency and readiness to allow older players to fall out by attrition, rather than forcing their way into selection by

superior skill and endeavour. A practice match was played against a SA team, but Bill Stahmer and experienced officials knew that playing against a combined team from the USA would be a different proposition. Thus, some potential players having withdrawn their services from the preliminary touring team for financial or private reasons, some having been deleted for their unsatisfactory attitude, the squad set off on its preliminary tour playing St John's University, Long Island Lacrosse Club (Astro turf), Mount Hampstead Lacrosse Club, Adelphi University, all in New York, and then playing American Navy at Annapolis, and Mt Washington Lacrosse Club, Chesapeake Lacrosse Club and Maryland Lacrosse Club in Baltimore.

This tour underlined the task that lay ahead of the Australians, who won 5 of the 9 games played. However, there was optimism that the team under Bill Stahmer's guidance would improve before the great contests in Perth.

We may now look at the ambitious programme devised by the Western Australian lacrosse Association. The most important event would obviously be the world championships. The venue for the championships would be the Western Australian Cricket Ground. The Australian championships would take an interesting lead up to the big event. They were to be played at the senior level, the Under 17 and the Under 15 levels. The dates for these events were to be:-

World championships	7-15 July
Australian senior championships	30 June – 3 July
Australian junior (U17)	9-13 July

A new venture, more or less a social venture, the Masters championships 7-14 July. Another new event was proposed, that of a sof-crosse carnival to take place from 9-15 July. Additional importance was given to the carnival from the fact that this was the first time a team from Japan had visited Australia. They were bringing a team of from 40-60 players. Mr Hobbs had evidently been wise and tactful. They would not participate in the world championships, but wished to play a number of games against teams of comparative standard. They hoped also to be included in coaching clinics, and would watch the championships with the greatest of interest.

A team would also be present from the Northern Territory Lacrosse Association. Some difficulty arose at this level concerning standards. It was felt that a team from the NT Association would be at best a good B team. Nevertheless, matches were arranged for them against Japan largely for promotional purposes. The NTLA had government support. As a step towards their development they were advised of the Sof-Crosse and Mod-crosse events. The Japanese association would no doubt be interested in these developments of the game. Matches against Japan and the Under 17 level could also be arranged. They also played an exhibition against an Under 20 All Stars team. This was played at the Floreat oval on Tuesday, July 10. Entry for spectators was free. Meat packs and refreshments would be available for those who wished to attend the barbecue. The magnitude of the venture by the WALA is staggering in its imaginativeness and complexity.

The world championships were to be opened at a ceremony held at the Super-dome. It was to be an indoor ceremony, including entertainment, participation by team members, officials, important persons and lacrosse followers generally. The countries involved in the world championships were: USA, Canada, England, Australia and the Iroquois nation.

The team selected for Australia was:-

M. Keen (WA), S. Mounsey (WA), P. Ackland (WA), J. Hiron (WA), P. Rapaic (WA – Co – Capt.), G. Morley (WA), S. Griffin (WA), R. Cornish (WA), P. Cann (WA), J. Kennedy (WA), A. Gibbs (WA), G. Revell (SA), T. Coquhoun (SA), R. Ansell (Vic), M. Arthur (Vic), B.

Skepper (Vic), P. Morley (Vic), J. Butkiewicz (Vic), D. Newman (Vic), K. Nichols (Vic), D. Gibson (Vic), C. Gibson (Vic), G. Meredith (Vic), J. Campbell (Vic) & G. Purdie (Vic).
Alternate players were A. Bower (Vic), A. Stubbs (WA) & C. Hocking (WA)
Referees were G. Reddaway (Vic), G. Elder (Vic) with P. Noble (SA) alternate.

Among the leaders of the international teams was Chief Jo, an important figure in international lacrosse. He was the leader of the Iroquois Indian nations, Chief Jo Ay osius, (Oren Lyons in English) "Faithkeeper of the turtle clan for the Iroquois confederacy", ie traditional tribal leader, associate professor of Indian studies in the New York University, member of the Indian Hall of Fame, due to his selection in the 1957 All-American lacrosse team.

Before the beginning of the championships teams had to submit to random tests for drugs at the conclusion of the Australian championships.

The WALA worked tirelessly and successfully, to make the international championships a success. They raised money, enlisting the help of the governments, which supplied \$15,000 towards a part-time executive director, \$5,000 for general administration, \$1,000 for ILF meeting overseas, \$1,000 referee workshops, \$1,000 for printing rule books and \$15,000 for participation in the programme. Clear liaison between the ALC and the AWLC was required.

Even more difficult than obtaining help from the governments, they obtained publicity in the press. Sometimes the publicity was not the wisest or best designed to influence the development of the game, but for immediate purposes any publicity was better than none. A well-meaning, but ill-judged article by Ian Brayshaw is a case in point. He wrote " If you thought rugby league, boxing and all in wrestling were about as rugged a sport as you could imagine, you'd better think again. And if that sort of thing is your cup of ea, then you'd be well advised to be ready and raring for some real action in the week of July 7-15. They are the dates of the lacrosse world series to be played, or should I say fought out, here in Perth".

Indications are that a contingent of 5,000 people will travel from interstate and overseas to be part of the "spine chilling" action. For one who cringed a little each time he was thrown into the hurly-burly of Aussie Rules football, I can tell you this is no place for the faint hearted. Each player is armed with a stick (Which happens to have a net on its extremity, for catching and throwing the ball, and apparently all carry a licence to wield that stick almost as they like. Fortunately for those who play lacrosse, the effects of these flailing sticks is cushioned a little by wearing a significant amount of protective equipment. Players don a solid helmet with faceguard, body and arm padding, and thickly padded gloves before they take up their cudgels against their opponents. After that a game of lacrosse can take on the hue of absolute bedlam" (Sunday Times 24 June 1990).

"All very droll", as the English would say, but only with coincidental resemblance to the truth. The injury rate is not as high as that of football, but emphasis on violence would do little to induce parents to allow their children to be inducted into the game. There is no revelation of the superb skill in stick-work, or the cunning development of tactics, or anything in fact that shows any real knowledge of the game. Of course, journalists are called upon to write on subjects on which they themselves are ill-informed, and they must do their best. The good old days of the late 19th and early 20th century are gone, when Melbourne lacrosse commentators were skilful and respected players. Still, the WALA worked remarkably effectively in getting newspaper space for their sport.

To give a detailed report of every game would take up a great deal of space, and we must content ourselves with the results of the games, which were as follows:-

1990 world championships – Perth
7 July Match 1 Iroquois 15 v Canada 18

	Match 2	Australia 9 v USA 21
8 July	Match 3	Canada 34 v England 18
	Match 4	USA 26 vs Iroquois 10
9 July	Match 5	England 7 v Australia 24
	Match 6	USA 29 v Canada 14
11 July	Match 7	USA 24 v England 9
	Match 8	Australia ? v Iroquois 8
12 July	Match 9	Iroquois 12 v England 15
	Match 10	Australia 17 v Canada 26
14 July	Match 11	Australia 16 v England 6 (3 rd v 4 th)
	Match 12	USA 24 v Canada 15 (1 st v 2 nd)

Thus, with all their endeavours, preparations and home advantages, Australia could manage only third place. USA retained its supremacy, and the ALC realized that much hard and skilful work remained to be done. The World Team was selected as follows:-

		Individual award
Goalie	M. Keen (Australia)	M. Keen (Australia)
Defence	B. Hieltjies (Canada)	
	D. Pietrama (USA)	D. Pietrama (USA)
	S. Mitchell (USA)	
Midfield	J. Tucker (USA)	J. Tucker (USA)
	B. Kitz (USA)	
	G. Gait (Canada)	
Attack	Mac Ford (USA)	Mac Ford (USA)
	R. Marino (USA)	
	B. Marechak (Canada)	

The most valuable player was deemed to be D. Pietrama

Among the many social events organized during the 1990 Championships, the dinner for the Fellows of the ALC. The title of "Fellow" was regarded as the highest honour the Council could pay. The award was first made in 1988, at the time of the 1990 World Championships the list included:-

Len Berry (WA)	1988
Clive Carr (SA)	1988
Don Hobbs (SA)	1988
Harold Horner (WA)	1988
Laurie Turnbull (WA)	1988
Henry Volk (Vic)	1988
Harold Balinski (WA)	1988
Terry Allington (Vic)	1989
Frank Lansbury (Vic)	1989

The Australian international commitments were continually increasing, but it is evident that the spread of lacrosse in Europe was continuing. The Annual Report for 1990 expressed regret that owing to the ALC's already heavy commitments they could not participate in a tournament being organized by the Stockholm Lacrosse Club.

The re-entry of Queensland had been bubbling on the back burner for some time. In 1990 it was moved that the Queensland association be granted affiliated status upon payment of

the required fee. This suggests a resurgence of the game in the northern state. Movements were in hand for the introduction of lacrosse into New Zealand. Sof-crosse already being played, and a ten year plan was envisaged before New Zealand would become a full lacrosse country.

There seems little doubt that lacrosse now had a firm standing in Japan. The Japanese Lacrosse Association had applied for and been granted membership of the ILF. The Japanese proposed for 1991 a series to be named the International Friendship Games. This was to be an international meeting for players under 19 years of age. The Japanese Association offered to meet all on-shore costs (Travel, accommodation, meals, etc). The ALC was pleased to accept the invitation. Peter Hobbs was appointed Team Executive Director.

The ALC never lost sight of its ambition to have lacrosse a truly Australian game, played in every state or territory in the Commonwealth. We have seen that there was a developing association in the Northern Territory, and a Queensland association had been granted affiliate status with the ALC. Two sets of sof-crosse equipment donated by the ALC to the Queensland association was contributing significantly to the re-introduction of lacrosse into Queensland. Lacrosse was growing in international stature increasingly with every season. Re-establishment of the game in New South Wales was viewed with optimism, all other states in 1990 being affiliated with the ALC.

1991 was a most important season in many ways, but perhaps for general value the developing connection with Japan was the most influential. The war with Japan had now been over more than 45 years. Business associations between the two countries had developed to the degree that trade between Japan and Australia formed the greater part of the economic activity of Australia.

Nevertheless, ill-feeling between at least sections of the two countries persisted. There were demands for apologies for war atrocities, and other actions apparently designed to denigrate the Japanese people; on the Japanese side, the determination not to "lose face" was strong. Thus, the participation of the Japanese players in the Australian championships, even if in a minor way, for lacrosse had not long been introduced into Japan, was a major achievement. Following this a recommendation was made that an Australian Under 19 team should visit Japan to take part in the what the Japanese authorities named as "the Friendship Games".

Australian authorities took the games very seriously, both for their own sake, and as a preparation for the Under 19 world championships to be held in the USA at Long Island in 1992. The selection of the squad to tour Japan was made under new conditions. Previously superficial skill was the criterion. Lacrosse selectors had learned, as selectors and coaches in all sports learn, that there are genuine champions and there are "show ponies". These look to possess all the attributes of the perfect player, but suffer from mental vaccination and moral toughness, so that they are beaten when it comes to fierce one on one contests.

The ALC in the paper named the "Team Selection Process" stated therefore the criteria on which selection would be made. These were:-

1. Coachability and pride
2. Physique and athleticism
3. Lacrosse skills
4. Mental toughness
5. Flexibility

They set down as their primary aim competing in the Firendship Games in Japan during June 1991. The secondary aims included:-

1. To prepare a collection of players from which a successful challenge for the 1992 World Series in Long Island could be launched.
2. To develop lacrosse skill, through the formation of "Elite squads" in SA, Victoria and WA.

The training for the Japan tour began in late 1990, with selections being made in December of that year. Early in January 1991 a programme was designed by experts in the Centre for Human Performance and Development at the Footscray Institute of Technology, under Dr Bill Morrison. He aimed at strength and speed, not endurance. Players not undertaking the disciplined programme would soon have inferior performance. Not only were the physical aspects of lacrosse a focus, the supporting characteristics which should be demonstrated by good lacrosse players were given prominence. Because lacrosse was played in three states, local coaches were appointed in each of the three states – Dr Graeme Ross (Head coach), Clive Sheppard, assistant coach in Victoria.

The ALC, though it fully endorsed the idea of the "Friendship games" with Japan, had no intention of being beaten. Their task, they felt, was to show the Japanese how to play the game.

The team eventually selected was:-

Simon Barwell (Victoria – Camberwell)
 Jayson Brewer (WA – Phoenix)
 Warren Brown (WA – Bayswater)
 Damien Buscumb (WA – Subiaco)
 Brenton Chatfield (Victoria – Camberwell)
 Jason Davenport (Victoria – Camberwell)
 Mervyn Davies (Victoria – Footscray)
 Scott Garnsworthy (Victoria – Williamstown)
 Matthew Johnston (SA – West Torrens)
 Evan Matthews (WA – East Fremantle)
 Greg Moore (Victoria – Surrey Park)
 Damien Orr (Victoria – Williamstown)
 Tim Richmond (Victoria – Malvern)
 Matthew Roberts (Victoria – Camberwell)
 Terry Sparks (Victoria – Eltham)
 David Spreadborough (Victoria – Surrey Park) (Co-Capt)
 Aaron Stammers (WA – East Fremantle) (Co- Capt)
 Mark Stillgoe (SA – Glenelg)
 Michael Wann (WA – Subiaco)
 Matthew Windsor (SA – West Torrens)
 Michael Burton (WA – Bayswater)

For most of these players overseas travel was a new experience, and to live in Japanese homes and by Japanese customs was likely to be something of a "Culture shock". The ALC took steps to train their players, not only in the skills of the game, but in demeanour and social awareness so that they might avoid giving even inadvertently any offence to their hosts, or their host country. They therefore produced a series of information bulletins.

Bulletin No.1 was largely devoted to team administration. Bulletin No.2 gave information about the climate and geography of Japan. Bulletin No.3 enclosed information about Japanese customers. Members of the team were requested to read this carefully. Bulletin No.4 was largely taken up with administrative details, such as visas and costs. The basic cost to each player was estimated as \$1185.

It also emphasized the desirability of neatness and general good standard of dressing. It was pointed out that members might like to give hosts tokens of appreciation. It was

emphasized that, as Japan is a wealthy country, elaborate gifts were unnecessary, but that tokens depicting Australian wildlife were highly appreciated. They would also appreciate club badges and stickers.

Then followed information about specific Japanese customs, such as the Sanno festival (June 10-16). It features some 30 portable shrines, and 50 street stalls selling souvenirs and traditional snacks. It was safe to eat food from the street stalls, as it was well prepared and hygienically presented.

Team members were strongly advised to get in some practice with chop sticks. There was an efficient subway system, in which station names were announced in both Japanese and English by the driver.

Bulletin No. 8 gave further information about the Japanese climate in June, and advice about clothing. They were advised not to take unnecessary clothing, as there were occasions when they would have to carry it.

Bulletin No. 6 gave the proposed itinerary, which was departing 10 October for Tokyo and then on to Osaka, with International Friendship Games in Osaka from the 15-16 June.

Even information regarding hotel bathrooms was given. Bathrooms were of Japanese style, and may be changed every day. The bather must wash himself thoroughly before getting in to the tub. He should not wash himself in the tub. He should not empty the bathtub by pulling out the plug.

Showers were available in the basements of some hotels, cold water from 8am to 11am, hot water thereafter.

The playing surface will be natural grass on dirt in Osaka and Tokyo. This would affect selection of footwear. The importance of the proper marking of clothing was emphasized. Information bulletin No.8 gave information about things to do in Tokyo. The advice given was that Tokyo was too big for anyone to cover the whole. The members of the team were advised against using taxis. The traffic in Tokyo is very heavy, few drivers speak English. On the other hand, the subway was cheap and efficient.

Tokyo was considered a safe city. Nevertheless, the Australians were advised to carry only as much money as they needed, and were advised to carry a money-belt under their shorts. Australian cash readily exchanged, but there would be a loss of 10-12% on travellers' cheques.

A greater number of billets than had at first been calculated was available. This would give better opportunities to get to know Japanese families. The tour "arrangers" are entirely Japanese students. There are also five trustees of very superior rank in Japanese business circles.

Bulletin No.9 contained valuable social advice. At the end of a function in Japan it is customary for those attending to leave immediately. Hanging about is not appreciated. Japanese will press you to stay, but when green tea is served after a meal, it is a signal that it is time to leave.

A few useful Japanese phrases were provided. Information about eating out was also provided. Food generally was cheap and varied at restaurants. Japanese baths and toilets were described, and the proper way to use them. Advice was given about what to do during typhoons and earthquakes. The words of the Australian national anthem, "Advance Australia Fair", were provided. Nothing was left undone that could be done to prepare the Under 19 team for the Friendship Games. There must have been some anxiety among the administrators of lacrosse. They knew only too well from personal experience the sorts of

pranks that young players of all games could get up to. Messages from the Captain and the President of the ALC.

Advice was given even concerning infectious diseases. Information concerning drug tests, now an integral item in international sports, were given.

The Australian team, as was to be expected, won both games against Japan, by 21-5 and 31-5. The tour had proved to be highly successful in every way.

The Japanese connection, important as it was, was by no means the only serious occupation of the ALC and its associated states. The ALC instituted a development policy under the slogan of "Add one". The principle was that each responsible authority should try to add one to their number; Each club should try to add members, each state association should try to add one team to its numbers, and the ALC should try to add one state to the council. It was a worthy effort, its end unlikely to be achieved, but showing that lacrosse was still forward looking, and had faith in its developments. And it did have its successes.

First of all they considered establishing a championship of schools. This had been carried out with success by the volleyball association. It would stimulate more ready local interest without making heavy demands on association officials or equipment. An Annual schools lacrosse tournament was set down for late 1991. The Australian Women's Lacrosse Association would also take part. The effect of the endeavours of the VLA to increase interest at junior levels was an increase of junior levels by 16%. This is a little at odds with the estimate issued by the ALC that there had been a national decrease in new lacrosse players of 24%.

In Victoria some schools and districts, as was to be expected, recruited better than others. The Footscray club encouraged the game in 46 local primary schools. Eltham, Chadstone and Williamstown also worked indefatigably. But it is a fact of life in all sports that the retention rate between junior and senior levels is not high. However, the VLA consisted of 33 senior teams and 35 junior teams.

Development in the hitherto "non-playing" states was active. In Tasmania there were three male teams in Hobart, and another group in Launceston. The ALC assisted 5 Tasmanian players to attend the national championships in Adelaide. They assisted in filling out the Queensland team, and attended training sessions. They met the ALC board to discuss development plans for Tasmania. There was movement too, in Sydney. Discussions were held with Angela Clark of the Department of Sport and Recreation and Linda Roylance of the recently formed NSW association. They emphasized the growing popularity of the game, especially through soft-crosse, but they had insufficient resources to meet the demand for clinics. It was decided that, to help remedy this, Mark Hickey should visit Sydney, and conduct a clinic on 22 March for 80 children. A two day teacher-in-service clinic was held a little later to provide a resource for further clinics. Activity in the NSW association was mainly among women, but the ALC was developing a "business plan to assist the establishment and support of junior clubs.

Lacrosse was being played in Alice Springs and Darwin. It was one of the duties of the ALC to determine which of these centres was the one affiliated with the ALC. Thus the game had established foot-holds at least in all the states and territories. If these could be adequately developed lacrosse could soon boast of being a truly Australian game.

Lacrosse was beginning to take a hold in New Zealand. At present the interest was mainly among school children. The New Zealand supporters lacked equipment and expert personnel. The ALC undertook to help in both areas. An appeal was sent out to clubs for used but serviceable equipment. They organized soft-crosse clinics and level 0 courses for teachers in New Zealand in conjunction with the Waikato Sports Foundation.

The relationship between the men's and the women's lacrosse organizations had still to be stabilized. It was agreed that amalgamation would not be appropriate, but they needed to examine the activities in which they could profitably combine. As a start, it was agreed that combination would be beneficial in the areas of development, promotion and administration. Liaison between the VLA and VWLA should continue on a personal basis.

At the time the ILF seemed to have become inert. There had been no meetings since the 1990 meeting in Perth. The ALC made it clear that it meant to be actively represented, and therefore requested that the ALC President become an ILF Vice-President. The ALC delegate to the ILF should be a director in one of areas of greatest concern.

Finally, the 1991 Australian championships must be recorded. Following the success of the 1990 tournament in Perth, where championships at all levels were held simultaneously, it was decided to apply the same format to the 1991 games in Adelaide. An important innovation was that the women's championships, was included in the programme.

While women's lacrosse participated in the Australian men's championship program it was not the Australian women's championships.

Women's teams from California and Japan took part, along with the Australian women's squad divided into two teams, the Auscrosse Gold and Auscrosse Green, and a composite SA Allstars team.

Major team trophies presented immediately after the men's play-off at the stadium.

*

The final results of the interstate men's games were WA 14 d Vic 9

In the Under 21 Colts National Championships Vic 16 d SA 10

In the Under 17 National Championships Vic 15 d WA 14

In the Under 15 National Championships SA 17 d Vic 15 in overtime

Any description of the 1991 season would be deficient without reference to the work of the ALRA. The Victorian branch met frequently and regularly, giving interpretations when ambiguous points of law arose, supervising uniform appearance of teams. An interesting move was the banning of cameras on the field from the first to the last whistle, the purpose being to prevent the filming of injured players. They held many workshops where any deterioration in sportsmanship was discussed, with steps to take to retain the high tone of the game. They were assisted by a group of assessors, who, at the end of matches, presented the officiating referees with a report, which indicated errors made, deficiencies in referee tactics, and praise where praise was due. It would have been a position in which resentment and ill-feeling could easily be roused, thus wise, tactful and experienced men were needed to fill the position. The assessors also graded umpires. A high degree of skill in refereeing led to better lacrosse. The efforts of the ALRA cannot be too highly commended.

Box lacrosse was actively played in Victoria as a summer recreation.

An interesting, and potentially important development was foreshadowed by the announcement that the Box Lacrosse committee had applied to ALC for permission to send a team to Canada and Czechoslovakia in 1992. Playing teams from Canada was now no novelty, but the move towards making playing contests with European countries such as Czechoslovakia was something new, from which undreamed of extensions could arise. The Committee for the proposed tour consisted of Richard Hammett, Allan Lewer, Ken Read, Rick Benedierks and Dean Mollison.

1992 season saw many important developments at state and national levels. Recruitment as a whole was disappointing, though in Victoria it seems to have been relatively buoyant, though no exact figures are available. Exactitude does not seem to have been highly regarded, for the ALC criticized its member associations for having different methods of calculating its registered players. In Victoria 44 teams were entered in the various senior levels, 39 teams in the junior levels, and 21 teams in the 3 zones of under 11 mod-crosse.

From the papers of the ALC, we learn that it was calculated that there was an 8.6% increase in people playing, but this increase was achieved totally in Victoria.

Victoria was not free of difficulties. The Caulfield club, one of the strongest in Victoria, applied for a moratorium for its state league team. This situation had come about through many of its best players transferring to other clubs. This no doubt was due to one of those upheavals to which all clubs are prone, usually due to personality clashes. The VLA stated categorically that it did not approve of mass transfers. It recognized that the problem was complex, and it decided to arrange for representatives of the committee of management to visit the club to give guidance and direction. Matters were apparently smoothed out, and the Caulfield club resumed its place in the activities of the situation. One of the difficulties in attracting recruitment was no doubt the fact that lacrosse was a relatively expensive game. The cost to the individual player to provide himself with the necessary equipment would have been about \$400 by the time stick, helmet, gloves and other protective gear had been obtained. Clubs no doubt helped recruits in these matters, but the time when the player became self-supporting could not be postponed indefinitely.

Then there were levies, contributions to the ALC, interstate development, and international participation, all of which expenses must be borne by a relatively small number of players. No doubt clubs took these matters into account when drawing up budgets and determining subscriptions, but nothing they could do would make lacrosse an easily affordable game. Nevertheless, as we have seen, in Victoria at least the level of recruitment was higher than the rate of wastage.

Victoria was to be the host in 1992 to the various national championships. In doing this they adopted a new procedure. Instead of the association assuming all the responsibilities, they decided to tender out the conduct at the various levels to individuals in exchange for the payment of a few for a licence to do so. The tender was awarded to the Caulfield club for the Under 17 and Under 21 championships, the venue to be the sporting complex at Princess Park in South Caulfield.

The move proved successful concerning the Under 17 and Under 21 championships. The club brought out a detailed programme, under the heading "Australian Championships", Under 17 and Under 21, Melbourne, July 1992. Hosted by Caulfield Lacrosse Club on behalf of the Australian Lacrosse Council.

It listed the trophies available for competition.

Hickey Shield – for competition between colts state field lacrosse teams in ALC colts championships

Mal Taylor Trophy – for competition between junior field lacrosse teams in ALC junior championships

L.S. Turnbull Trophy- for the fairest and best player in field lacrosse in each ALC junior championships, based on votes cast under by-law G5.1.

Welcomes were printed under the names of Marion Willmott, President, Caulfield Lacrosse Club, Malcolm John Stokes, President of the ALC, R. E. Jackson, President of the VLA, and

an article emphasizing the need for a healthy junior competitions, to provide an ample supply of recruits for senior lacrosse.

The President of the VLA emphasized the historic nature of the championships, in that Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland would be competing in the senior championships, and also the U19 team in preparation for the 1992 World Series in August, at Long Island, USA. Team lists and score sheets were provided. The fixtures were printed, to which we add, in the interests of conciseness the results of matches.

WA did not enter a team in the Under 21 championships. On the surface, this seems a little surprising, seeing that they had been the foremost protagonists of Under Age championships. The explanation probably is that for the season of 1992 the WA association changed the format of its under-age competitions to Under 14 and Under 18.

The U17 result was marred by controversy. Victoria, premiers on scores, was disqualified for fielding too many players. SA was therefore declared champions. Victoria was, however, the champion U21 side. WA was not represented in the U21 competition.

The Allstar U17 team for 1992 was:-

Goals	Aaron Sargent (SA)
Defence	Justin Esler (Vic) Michael Sheidow (SA)
Midfield	Grant Moir (WA) James Inge (SA) Jason Vorrasi (SA) Steven Bown (Vic) Nathan Roost (WA) Captain Brett Humphrey (Vic) Jason Cluse (SA)
Attack	Ben Alexander (SA) Daniel Whitbourn (Vic) Captain Cameron Barr-Kemp (Vic)
Coach	Rick Kennedy

Best and fairest for the championship:- 1st – Daniel Whitbourn (Vic), 2nd Jason Vorrasi (SA), 3rd Grant Moir (WA)

The main event for the interstate year was always the national championships. They were in 1992 held in Melbourne. They were conducted by the Malvern Lacrosse Club. Victoria emerged as the champion team for 1992.

The NSW/Tas team was a composite group. It contained 7 players from Tasmania, 7 players from NSW, 8 players from Victoria and 3 players from SA.

The names of the pioneer players from Tasmania and NSW should be recorded:-

Tasmania – David Selby, Nigel Slater (CC), Keith Turnbull, Matthew McGeorge, Matthew Addison, Jason Osborne, Aiden Young

NSW – Kurt Jones, Kim Green, Mike Lucas, Rob McKay (CC), Darren Ruge, Rob Caplan, Skip Webb

Victoria supplied the officials – coach - Bill Stahmer, Asst coach - John Carter and Allan Gandy – manager

The Queensland team contained 11 Queenslanders, 7 Victorians and 7 Americans. The names of the pioneer Queenslanders should be recorded:-

Greg Thornycroft	Queensland LC
Anthony Essex	Caboolture
Paul Curran	Caboolture
Steve Davidow	Queensland LC
Clinton Deagan	Brisbane
Bill Brown	Queensland LC
Cameron Gibson(CC)	Sunshine Dolphins
Nat Hampson	Queensland LC
Coach Brendan Deagon	
Manager Ray Trevaskis	

There is good evidence that lacrosse in Victoria in 1992 was making good progress. Much depended on the initiative of individual clubs and the energy of its officials. The Eltham club at this time was among the most active. The Eltham Council, aware of the Eltham club's interest in the welfare of young people allowed lacrosse to take over all the facilities at the Eltham Lower Park during the lacrosse season. These included the pavilions, social club rooms and all playing fields. Council officers referred to the "Lacrosse complex". In addition to this the Eltham club decided to establish a new junior club in their area. It would start at the Under 11 level, and be known as the Diamond Valley Club.

At the international level much activity was going on. This, of course, was the ultimate responsibility of the ALC, but what concerned the ALC affected all the constituent state associations. The ILF appears to be emerging from its dormancy. It accepted Czechoslovakia as a member. Australia offered to pay its first year subscriptions as a token of support. Czechoslovakia had indicated its desire to compete in the Developing Nations Tournament, in conjunction with the 1994 World Lacrosse Championships in Manchester. Other likely participants were Scotland, Wales and Sweden. A USA Lacrosse Foundation team had visited China and is promoting lacrosse to various Chinese organizations. Australia was active in its regions. Having heard of lacrosse activity in Singapore, the ALC was anxious to follow it up. It had supported early development in New Zealand, and had strongly supported Japan. A successful coaching clinic for nearly 40 players from Japan held in Perth had recently been carried out. Australia had influenced the ILF to change its methods by establishing 4 working parties to manage projects in the areas of competition, promotion, development and constitution.

But the most immediate international event was the Under 19 world championships, for which Australia had for the last two seasons carried out much preparatory work. Finance was obviously an important factor in determining what sort and how much preliminary coaching could be carried out.

Selection trials were to be held in Melbourne during the weekend February 29- March 2. Candidates would have to pay their own fares. Under an equalization scheme these would be \$100.

Training would recommence in September of 1992. These would involve the elite squads of SA, Victoria and WA. Field tests would be carried out in Victoria on 22 September, and 29 September in SA. These would be followed by field tests in fitness evaluation, to be held 5 and 12 October. On 19 and 20 October the head coach would visit WA.

Training was carried out in this way until February 1992, when the final selection trials would be carried out on 29 February – 2 March.

The selected team would be announced on 6 March. More concentrated team and individual training would be carried out in March, April, May, June and July. The team would depart for

the USA from Melbourne on 21 July. On arrival in the USA, they would be accommodated at the West Point Military academy until 28 July, where they would make their final preparations and become acclimatized.

It was not possible to state the cost of the tour precisely, but it was estimated that airfares would cost about \$1600/member. Personal items and general kitting out could cost team members about \$1358.

This would be a formidable sum for an Under 19 boy to find. For some squad members, there were educational problems to be put in order.

The American team had been announced and it looked a formidable combination. Australia's dearest ambition was to overcome what seemed to be an invincible opposition. A series of bulletins were issued providing information to cover every contingency.

Finally the selected team was announced:-

Simon Barwell (Victoria), Greg Moore (Victoria), Michael Brereton (WA), Damien Orr (Vic), Damien Buscumb (WA), Tim Richmond (Vic), Matthew Cahill (WA), Matthew Roberts (Vic), Tony Clarke (SA), Nathan Roost (WA), Dale Clayton (SA), Matthew Schomberg (WA), Chris De Mello (SA), Adrian Slattery (Vic), Jason Davenport (Vic), Terry Sparks (Vic), Jason Dorrington (Vic), David Spreadborough (Vic), Russell Fox (Vic), Aaron Stammers (WA), Scott Garnsworthy (Vic), Michael Wann (WA), Keir Jarvis (Vic), Chris Weisse (Vic), Chris Johnston (SA), David Whiteman (Co-capt – WA), Matthew Johnson (SA), Matthew Windsor (Co-capt SA), Daniel Knight (WA), Jason Knight (WA), Mark Mangan (SA), Sherrie Paterson (Myotherapist/trainer).

The list of fixtures, with the score for each match was:-

Day 1 July 31	England 14 v Iroquois 6
	Canada 16 v Japan 3
	USA 14 v Australia 9
Day 2 August 1	USA 23 vs Japan 9
	Australia 18 v England 9
	Canada 23 v Iroquois 9
Day 3 August 2	Australia 26 v Japan 6
	USA 28 v Iroquois 6
	Canada 17 v England 8
Day 4 August 3	England 10 v Japan 9
	Australia 28 v Iroquois 6
	USA 32 v Canada 6
Day 5 August 4	Iroquois 11 v Japan 9
	USA 35 v England 4
	Australia 25 v Canada 10
Consolation final	Canada 17 v England 9
Final	USA 24 v Australia 11

Thus, in spite of all the thought, work, money and devotion the Australians had expended, it was clear that the USA was the strongest team. Nevertheless, there was some satisfaction for all the contestants – the Japanese played two very close matches; the Iroquois and England both won one match and the Australians made the USA show their very best form, as the following report demonstrates.

“THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER”

Thunder and lightning at Hofstra University, Long Island, New York, climatically and on the field saw the Australian U19 lacrosse team stamp its quest for the gold medal in a fierce struggle against the USA team last night (31 July).

Australia lead at quarter time 6-4, and in a defensive battle in the second quarter, USA lead 7-6 at half time.

Thunder and lightning which delayed the start of the third quarter by 20 minutes, saw a stormy third quarter confrontation, with R. Beardsley, co-captain for the USA, ejected from the game. USA edged away to a 12-7 lead at the end of the third period.

Australia's depth and conditioning saw a titanic struggle in the fourth quarter, culminating in a 14-9 result to the USA.

Outstanding performances by Australian goalie Scott Garnsworthy, with 13 saves, and dynamic leadership by Matt Windsor in defence, and David Whiteman in midfield attack, together with the man-down defence performance of shutting out 11 of the 12 USA extra man opportunities.

The tour seems to have been successful in every way, except the ultimate, the winning of the gold medal. Before the tournament started, all contestants knew that the American interpretation of the ILF rules was more lax than in other countries. There was no small confidence that when the American players opposed teams in an overseas location the result might well be different.

During 1993 a summer lacrosse competition was organized in Victoria. Players taking part were no doubt already registered members of the VLA. Teams were apparently composite teams, being four in all – Mohicans, Cheyennes, Mohawks and Pale Faces. Mr Frank Lansbury gave a shield for summer competition.

At the junior level 8 teams entered the Under 17 competition and 9 teams entered the Under 15 competition. The Under 13 competition was divided into 3 zones, the east zone containing 10 teams, the south with 10 teams and the west with 8 teams. At the Under 11 level there were mod-crosse teams (East zone 7, west zone 6 and central zone 21. Evidently much good developmental work was being done among schools and juniors, but the pyramid tended to taper off rapidly. The secret of the transition from junior lacrosse to senior still had to be found. It would seem that in terms of registered players Victoria was still the strongest state. However, the evidence is tenuous, for the ALC expressed some scepticism as to the accuracy of the statistics supplied.

In the other states there were clear signs of rejuvenation. In Sydney an Easter Classic Lacrosse Tournament was held. This was the first interstate event the NSW association had conducted for 98 years. Even though it was not an official carnival it was an event worthy of note in lacrosse. Five teams took part, Queensland, Williamstown, a composite team from the ACT, NSW north and NSW south. The Williamstown team dominated the operations, but the developing states showed commendable improvement during the course of the carnival.

The ALC had decided that most emphasis should be given to the development of lacrosse in NSW this year. Mr Matthew Dwyer had been appointed National Development Officer. He had obtained sponsorship for the game. An inter-school competition had been formed, and there was a strong likelihood of a senior team also taking to the field.

It is difficult to obtain precise statistics as to the numbers of registered lacrosse players. SA was going through a difficult time. Equal opportunity for women brought all sorts of problems everywhere. The VLA and VWLA had decided against amalgamation, but decided that cooperation provided a better solution. The situation in SA was a little different. A new organization was established in SA named Lacrosse South Australia, which was an amalgamation of men's and women's administration. For a little while the ALC was at a loss

to know whether the old organization represented SA or whether the body newly formed and named Lacrosse South Australia Inc was the constituent member of the ALC. The matter was settled at the meeting of the ALC 27-28 March 1993, when it was noted that Lacrosse South Australia Inc should be accepted as a member of the ALC. However, it was recognized that the SALA Inc still functioned as a separate entity. Such controversies can have only a harmful effect on recruitment, and no doubt has an influence on the state figures of 1993 published by the ALC bulletin 9 (Jan 1993). This stated that an increase of 8.5% had been made over the previous year and a total of 11.2% over the last two years. The growth in numbers by states was recorded as WA 26.8%, Victoria 21.3% and SA 4.2%.

Notable progress was made in the emerging states. In NSW significant exposure and recruiting was achieved at the Sydney Sports Expo. As a result lacrosse clubs were established in 5 communities. A successfully conducted Easter mini-classic attracted teams from Victoria and Queensland. A 16 week club competition for women was carried through. A fledgling junior club championship was organized. A regular newsletter was published. All the signs pointed to a resurgence of the game in NSW in the near future.

In Queensland things were equally promising. An 8 match indoor competition of mixed lacrosse was conducted in Brisbane between July and September. Promotional work was undertaken in the universities to prepare for future developments. Perhaps the most promising event was the "Paradise" tournament, which attracted 8 full lacrosse teams to Surfers Paradise in October, during which the groundwork was laid for a formal field competition to be conducted in 1994. A level 1 coaching course was held in July. The ALC and the AWLC helped financially for the purchase of material. The ideal of the ALC to establish lacrosse as a commonwealth-wide game seemed to be coming more into the realms of practicality.

The game was being played in every state, though men's lacrosse was making slow progress in Tasmania.

It is possibly even more significant that Australia was playing a leading part in propagating the game in its own section of the globe, South East Asia. The greatest success was in Japan, from where teams had been sent to take part in Australian competitions, and Australian coaches had visited with a view towards teaching players and referees the niceties of the game. A tour of coaches conducted by John Carter and Rick Benedierks to Japan had been highly successful. Also a women's lacrosse team naming themselves the "The koalas" was arranged for April 1994. The governments saw the value of such contacts as evident from the Dept of Foreign Affairs having financed the members.

Singapore Lacrosse Club was accepted as an associate member of the ILF at the 1993 meeting. At least three formal contacts had been made with Australia through John Harris, Ian Whitbourn and George Tillotson. A team known as Koala Crosse visited both Japan and Hong Kong. Australia continued to encourage lacrosse in New Zealand, especially at the school level, and an annual exchange of visits of teams was under consideration.

The emphasis on international lacrosse has so far been restricted to regions near Australia. It must not be forgotten that the game was now being increasingly taken up by European countries. The ALC received an appeal from an emerging Welsh Lacrosse Association. Owing to its already heavy commitments it could offer little more than encouragement. Unfortunately there were real differences in the rules under which the game was played in Europe, partly owing to climate and partly to terrain. Unification would need to be achieved before lacrosse could be recognized as a single world game.

With the approaching 1994 world championships our preoccupation has been with international affairs. However, without firm domestic bases, and solid interstate competitions in the home bases, international advancement must be limited.

At the interstate level there was much activity. The peak of lacrosse achievement in Australia is the senior championships, and the holding of the historic Garland-McHarg Cup. In 1993 the senior championships were held in Perth at the Floreat Oval. Two developments marked this tournament as something special. For the first time in 94 years a team representing NSW was entered. It may be admitted that the team consisted of a high proportion of NSW players, supplemented by players from other states and clubs. But the important thing is that the name NSW, was listed among those of the contestants.

A precedent was laid down by including in the national championships a team from the USA. This was not a team representing the USA. This was not a team representing the USLA, but one from an American club, the Kean College Lacrosse Club.

The WA proved themselves to be the champion state after a close contest.

The Allstars team selected as a result of the championships consisted of:-

G. Larwood (SA), R. Lawson (SA), S. Mounsey (WA) (Co-capt), M. Windsor (WA) (Co-capt), C. Warren (WA), R. Cornish (WA) (Co-capt), T. Sellan (SA), C. Bell (Vic), C. Johnston (SA), D. Whiteman (WA), J. Brewer (WA), J. Buchanan (Vic), G. Purdie (Vic). Coach – J. Denic. Most valuable player – D. Gibson (Vic), best and fairest – G. Larwood (SA)

The Under 17 national championships were held in Adelaide and hosted by the Brighton Lacrosse Club.

An interesting point is that a team from the US supported by the "People to people through sport" took part in the competition. The teams taking part were from the states of SA, Victoria, WA, People to People Sports H. S. Lacrosse Allstars (USA) and the ALC President's team.

An under 15 tournament was held in Perth. As this was the age at which young players were introduced to inter-state tournaments a brochure providing wise advice for responsible sections was provided. The document emphasized the ethos of lacrosse, as well as dealing with specific aspects.

Among the comments on rules were:-

- (a) any body-checking of a player not in possession of the ball will be illegal. Mere contact between two players playing a loose ball will not constitute a foul. The prime objective of the player must be to play the ball at all times.
- (b) No stick checking of the gloved hand with excessive force... it is also intended that penalties relating to swinging a crosse with deliberate viciousness or reckless abandon will be strictly enforced, as well as stick checks to the body.

With six days of high standard lacrosse in front of us I am sure that no one wishes to see any of the junior players receive unnecessary injuries. The poke check will not be permitted and will be penalized as a personal foul. A series of codes of behaviour was included. Among the Player's Code were such injunctions as: play the rules; never argue with an official; be a good sport; treat all players as you would be treated. For coaches the advice was: teach your players that the rules of the game are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break; never yell at or ridicule players for making mistakes; follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to resume training or competition; avoid derogatory language at all times.

Advice was given to spectators and parents. Such injunctions were: encourage players to follow the rules, and abide by the official's decision; applaud good performances and efforts from each team; demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language.

Even the officials were offered advice. They were advised always to be objective and courteous in calling all infractions. Ensure that everything you do is seen by all as unbiased and fair. Following the lead given by major sports and the impact of new forms of maladies, advice was given as to the treatment of open wounds. In the case of a cut or abrasion the injured player must leave the arena if bleeding is evident. He must not re-enter the arena until bleeding has stopped. When the player does re-enter the arena, the wound must be completely covered with a dressing or bandage. If blood is evident on the playing uniform or equipment, it must be washed off or the uniform changed before the player re-enters the playing arena.

It is clear from the guidelines that lacrosse retained the high ideals of the amateur days. Parents of boys playing lacrosse could be confident that their sons were being soundly trained in all the best elements of sportsmanship.

The participants in the tournament consisted of two teams from each of WA, SA and Victoria. Thus from WA there were the Braves and Northern Thunder. From SA came SA East team and SA West team. Victoria was represented by Eastside Kings and Southern Cross. The winners of the tournament were the Victorian Eastside Kings, with the SA West team runners-up.

Other affairs of great importance were going on during 1993, but as they were largely concerned for the preparation of the Australian team for the epic adventure of the world championships in Manchester in 1994 it will be more cohesive if we treat the whole programme at the same time.

1994 was to be the nadir of lacrosse, not only in Australia but in the world as a whole. Although things went on more or less normally, the great thrust in Australia was to defeat the USA for the world championships. The ALC had reason for optimism, and they intended to leave nothing undone. They had been disappointed before. They had entered the 1990 world championships with the highest hopes, only to finish third. They were determined in 1994 that they would bring home the victor's palm. The normal events of a season were carried out, but behind the over-riding ambition – victory in England.

The senior national championships were held in Adelaide, and won by Victoria; the Under 17 national championships were held in WA and again Victoria was successful. A Canadian team took part in this tournament. An Under 15 contest was held in Adelaide, but not on an interstate basis, for each state was represented by more than one team. The final was won by a team from Victoria known as the East Side Kings.

At the club level in Victoria the normal pennant matches were held, Malvern becoming premiers of the state league, Williamstown of Division 1, Eltham of Division 2 and Altona of Division 3.

The Victorian box lacrosse summer season was played during the weeks between Monday 11 October and Thursday 16 December. A Melbourne indoor lacrosse league was instituted during 1994 at the Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre. This began with a group of 18 teams. Club registrations were stated to be 45 seniors and 72 juniors. These events would have made any year a busy one, but the preparations for the world championships occupied a great deal of the time of the directors of the ALC, and by implication the councils of the associated bodies.

Mounting a team for world championship events is a work of immense toil and incredible complexity. It is not only a matter of selection of players and officials and then pushing them in at the deep end. The difficulties become incredibly more difficult when the event is a hemisphere's distance away. Unnecessary difficulties arise when the host country is not fully aware of the greatness of the task. In the early stages Australian officials found difficulty in extracting definite information from the English lacrosse union, simply because that organization decided that three officials were sufficient to complete the whole organization. They soon found their error and corrected it, but even with the rapidity of modern communications, fax, and so on, there was always that little delay in the exchange of news. The Australian lacrosse community was the smallest of all the competitors, but its strength arose in the quality of the men who came forward to direct operations. Just think of what needed to be done? Obviously the first thing was that a team drawn from states whose capitals were separated by 500 to 2,000 miles. The best possible team had to be found, prepared and trained to function as a single unit.

A squad much larger than the eventual team must be chosen. This squad must then be brought to an unprecedented degree of physical fitness, team skills and stick dexterity. All the candidates were subject to the same requirements, a similar degree of perfection achieved and a unified rather than parochial team spirit developed.

The final squad having been selected, all had to be provided with the official uniform and other items of clothing by which they would be universally recognized. Travel arrangements had to be made, not only for the team, but for the substantial body of supporters who would accompany them. The ALC must ensure that all necessary medical precautions were taken by every individual.

Underlying all problems was that of finance. Though players would be asked to make a reasonable personal contribution there would still be a considerable shortfall. The work done by the various directors and officials must be examined in some detail before the immensity of the undertaking may be realized.

The first responsibility of the ALC was to gather together a team of officials who had the talent to carry out their ambitious project. Ambitious it certainly was. To overcome the might of the USA was a goal almost awe-inspiring in its impertinence. With its college based format, providing it with almost unlimited funds and a vast army of expert lacrosse players to choose from was within the realms of Jack and the beanstalk. To beat Canada was almost as audacious. Though much of the Canadian game consisted of box lacrosse, the field game had its prominence. To promising players in field lacrosse scholarships to many of the best colleges in the USA were available. There was a great host of promising lacrosse players in Canada, and they took the game seriously. There was perhaps more room for confidence in matching it with England. There the game still carried its amateur characteristics; but to be amateur and to be incompetent are not by any means a necessary combination. The game was on English home territory, and English administrators had supreme confidence in being able to beat Australia.

Australian could win only by developing the highest degree of fitness, the most adroit stick skills and the most cunning of tactics. The team officials chosen knew only too well how formidable the task was, and the ALC knew how vital it was to find the best men who could engender the greatest harmony among players from various more or less antagonistic states. The men chosen must be of firm character, of approachable disposition, and above all supremely able in the areas appointed to them.

The officials appointed were:-

Executive director Malcolm Stokes (WA)

Manager	Allan Frederick (SA)
Asst manager	Norm Coleman (Vic)
Coach	John Denic (WA)
Asst coach	Tony Hill (SA)
Training coordinators	Graeme Fox (Vic), Klay Johnson (WA), Ken Nichols (Vic)

A preliminary squad of 62 players was then selected, 27 from Victoria, 23 from WA and 12 from SA. This number was gradually reduced and for various reasons. For instance, a payment of \$300 was required from each member of the squad. Obviously some were either disenchanted with their prospects of selection, or obdurate, or careless, and failed to meet this condition. It was decided that those who had not met their commitment by 3 September 1993 would not be considered for selection.

The prospective team members, drawn from three states could not possibly be coached and trained simultaneously by one man, or a team of men. On 22 December 1992 a fitness programme was drawn up, the carrying out of which was left to individual consciences, though the advantages would reveal themselves as by successive deletions, the selectors approached their designated number.

The programme was divided into

- a) a fitness programme, which included strength training, and conditioning and
- b) skills training, which would be supplemented by hard games.

The training coordinator would visit various centres to

- a) coordinate training sessions;
- b) testing players on the fitness programme;
- c) developing squad members skills;
- d) evaluating players progress;
- e) disciplining players when required;
- f) being a confidant to the players;
- g) assisting in players assessments to build player profiles; individual coaching to players requiring specific attention

The team coach insisted that training coordinators are entitled to and expect to be given the same respect as coaches and managers. A difficult task was laid on them; they were to be all things to all men. For the best of us, we do not do badly when we manage to be some things for some men.

It will be seen that for any prospective team member to follow this programme a high degree of devotion to duty was required. The programme inaugurated in 1992 and culminating in 1994 required two years of exacting work, the devotion of much personal time.

It must be remembered that the personal fitness programme was being carried out concurrently with these fixtures. It would no doubt be of great value to coaches to publish the programme in detail, but such desirability must be sacrificed to space.

The team finally selected for the 1994 world lacrosse tournament was:-

Executive director	Malcolm Stokes
Manager	Allan Frederick
Asst manager	Norm Coleman
Coach	John Denic
Asst coach	Ken Nichols
Team reporter	Keith Chamberlain
Resources Asst	Campbell Faulls

Physiotherapist	Lis Bowen
Executive assistant	Mavis Owens
Referees	Gordon Elder and Craig Wilson
Captains	Darren Gibson, Stephen Mounsey, Chris Warren

Players:

Scott Barr-Kemp, John Brewer, Jamie Buchanan, Craig Everall, Jarad Klemm, Robert Lawson, Spiro Melissovas, John Redman, Tony Sellan, Terry Sparks, Aaron Stubbs, Matthew Windsor, Michael Brereton, Christopher Brown, Robin Cornish, Shane Harley, Greg Larwood, Mark Mangan, Gordon Purdie, Matthew Schomburg, Brad Skepper, David Spreadborough, Cameron Toomey.

Appointing the officials and selecting the team was a long and arduous piece of work. Having reached this point the ALC was committed. It was the point of no return, but there was a great deal yet to be done.

A team is not a team unless it looks like a team. The members therefore had to be provided with on-field and off-field uniforms. Designing the items of apparel is obviously the first step in producing a suitable uniform. The design must be put into effect with suitable workmanship and material. Lacrosse players, like others human beings vary in size and shape, so uniforms must be individually crafted. When all the items are available they must be accepted and then delivered to individual members, taking note of any necessary adjustments. Two types of uniform were provided, the playing uniform and the casual uniform. Difficulty was found in obtaining the desired material for the playing uniforms. They were therefore obtained through supplier STX. Two sets were provided, one primarily green, the other mainly white.

Team members were required to provide a white business shirt (blouse for females) and blazers which had been arranged. The green woollen jacket was provided to non-playing members of the team in lieu of playing uniforms and other items provided to playing members. It can be seen that obtaining and distributing all these items was a huge task, but it was carried out efficiently.

Finance is a major source of anxiety in conducting any sort of major project. In the case of a great project like the 1994 world championships the responsibility is enormous. Three sources of money are available – government grants, individual efforts and sponsorship. Obtaining government grants is not easy, and requires much time, ingenuity, and tact on the part of the representatives of the sport which wish to be included in the list of beneficiaries. The Australian Sports Commission made a grant of \$20,000 in 1993/94 towards the cost of team preparation. The ALC made a request for a forward commitment towards the international competition in 1994/95.

An Australian Athletics Scholarship Team had been set up. Scholarships are awarded under AASS to athletes who achieve a nominated result in international competition. For lacrosse, a monthly grant of \$200 would be paid for a team ranking of 1-2 in the world..... for lacrosse, it would be acceptable to award a team scholarship for a period of up to 4 years. This meant that providing the Australian team finished first or second in 1994, lacrosse is eligible for a grant of \$200/month for 23 players until the next world championship. This would be a great incentive, and would help ensure that Australian lacrosse could conduct a more professional preparation for future world championships. Other government grants were from the Sports Assistance Scheme (\$40,000) and the National Sports Programme (\$25,000). Without this government assistance Australian lacrosse would have been hard put to take part in the 1994 world championships.

However, the assistance was not easily obtained. The team executive director travelled to Canberra and met with Australian Sports Commission officers on seven occasions since his appointment in 1991. Funds were received from private sources in varying amounts.

A scheme known as the Australian Lottery Incentive Endorsement Scheme (ALIES) based on the concept that 40 individual sponsors each contribute \$2,500. STX Lacrosse provided merchandise to the value of \$10,000.

Other sponsors by means of good and services were:-

TNT Express – cartage of materials between states.

Westpac Bank – no bank fees on deposit books and accounts for lacrosse team – Aust target savings plan

Leaves Design – Design work for lacrosse Team Australia

Shorter FCB – Design work for “Aussie shark” team identity

Akai Audio Video Australia – loan of video unit for use by the coach

Alcatel Datakey – donation of Sharp IQ 8,000 Organizer for raffle

Canon Australia Pty Ltd – Donation of E230 kit with 8mm camcorder

Berrivale Orchards – donation of 1,320 litres of Isosport and drink bottles

An organization known as Lacrosse Team Australia (LTA) was set up with a branch in each state to provide financial support for members of the Australian lacrosse team resident in each state. The activity of LTA varied from state to state, but made significant contributions eg LTA (WA)

Allocated to former team or squad members	\$8,550
Allocated to team members	\$22,040
Paid to Australian team	\$2,337.55

LTA (SA) and LTA (Vic) paid to Australian training camps \$253 and \$1,690.90 respectively. The WA coaching foundation subscribed \$750 towards the cost of supporting the state coach, Scott Griffin at the Australian championships, and \$2,000 to John Denic as a contribution to the cost of attending the NCAA finals in the USA.

The ALC felt that the return from so much effort was discouraging. Hundreds of written and verbal proposals were submitted to a great variety of organizations, many receiving no response or brief refusals. Attracting sponsorship was the more difficult because of the absence of any television coverage in Australia, and the fact that the event was taking place in England. Nevertheless, Australian lacrosse persisted with its endeavours.

At last everything that could be done to ensure a successful tour had been done.

Accommodation for the team was at Manchester University. Supporters had been recruited, their accommodation arranged and their several travel requirements organized.

Communication was organized. All playing equipment obtained, ready to be delivered at whatever location was needed. After a long and arduous programme, beginning with the appointment of the team Executive Director in November 1991 and ending with a review meeting in Adelaide on 15-16 October 1994, the attempt to win the first world championships for Australia was over. The programme ended with the most rigorous and exacting work. 23-25 April saw the final weekend training camp in Melbourne, 2-10 June the team coach travelled to the USA to watch the NCAA finals, and thus put the finishing touches on the strategies he hoped to employ to defeat the current champions. These strategies he was able to implement and perfect at the Australian championships in Adelaide, 2-10 July. On 14 July the team left Australia and arrived in Manchester the following day. On 16 July they played a practice match against Connecticut College, which, though not quite of championship standard, was an excellent rehearsal. The championships took place from 20-30 July with teams from Australia, U.S.A., Canada, England, Iroquois and Japan.

Of these teams the greatest threats to Australian victory were US, Canada and England. The Australian scouting team observed critically the play of their opponents, and produced reports on the tactics, the special skills, and the individual qualities of team players.

They deduced, for example that the American attack strategy was based on a 2-3-1 (ie 6 on 6) organization. The pattern always drove left hand side of the cage. The American defence relied very much on a 1 on 1 defence. There was a tendency to allow attackers behind the cage to move and feed. The American defence contained mainly left handers and consequently pushed the attack on to the left side of the cage. They should be suspect to the Australian lefty wheel rotation. The Americans were exceptionally quick in their clearing, and the Australians would need to shut off any outlets up the middle quickly.

At the face-off the Americans were suspect both as to technique and fitness. Once having gained possession at the face-off they must move the ball quickly. And so on. Every player and every position scrutinized and a counter strategy indicated. A similar report was compiled for the English team. The English attack pattern was different from the Americans. Starting as 2-2-2 it rapidly deployed into 1-3-2. Normally they retained 2 players behind the goal, who became their major feeders.

They rarely dodge one on one, but rely on a set offence, with cuts to feeders. They are very disciplined in moving the ball to feeders behind goals. And so on, each move is analysed and discussed.

The scouts observed that the English were poor stick handlers. However, they worked very hard at ground balls. They were easily upset by aggressive body-checking. They had a tendency to lose concentration late in each quarter. On the whole, the scouts were optimistic about beating England, but not so sanguine of the outcome of matches between America and Canada.

It is obvious that some of the matches would have little bearing on the result of the championships. Japan had taken up the game recently and with great enthusiasm, but they were inexperienced in lacrosse at high levels.

The Iroquois anxious to keep alive their traditional game and to be seen to be an important element in its development, could not mount a team which would have much impact on the four more powerful nations. The outcome of the championships depended on the results of matches between the more powerful nations.

The first important game for Australia was that against England. The English press made it known that they expected to beat Australia, especially as the series was being played in England. The English press gave the local team great encouragement.

However, the superior preparation of the Australian team was underestimated. The scouting of the English team before the Australians arrived in England, and also while there, was perceptive and accurate. The result was an easy win for Australia, 28 goals to 7. This completely demoralized the English team, but encouraged the Australians to continue with and develop their game plan.

They entered the next game with high hopes. They believed they could beat America. The Australians were keyed up to win, perhaps a little too exuberantly so. The result was that they began poorly, being 3-0 down at the 20 minute mark, having had 6 shots at goal without scoring. A thunder storm then stopped the game for almost two hours. Starting without a sufficient warm up period, they were soon 9-1 down just before half-time. The qualities built in by their rigorous training then began to exert themselves, and the Australians dominated

the second half, outscoring the Americans by 11 to 5, to lose 14-12. It was a magnificent effort, worthy of its almost fairy-tale ending.

The first of the games against Canada showed the results of the tough struggle against the USA, and the Australians were beaten 19 goals to 10. However, there must be a semi-final between Canada and Australia, whatever the result, and the Australians felt confident about the result of the semi-final. This proved to be a titanic match, with the Australians finally winning by a solitary goal, 18-17.

The Australian team thus won the silver medal for the championship, and succeeded in achieving the government stipulation for further funding that they come first or second. Still, as the manager stated in his report "Each member of the 37 member team, although pleased to have represented their country, and won the silver medal, would also admit that second place is just that".

The scores for the championships were:-

Australia 26	d	Iroquois 11
Canada 19	d	England 13
Australia 28	d	England 7
American 33	d	Japan 2
America 16	d	Canada 10
Iroquois 16	d	Japan 2
Canada 33	d	Japan 7
England 19	d	Iroquois 6
America 14	d	Australia 12
England 20	d	Japan 1
America 26	d	Iroquois 6
Canada 19	d	Australia 11
America 16	d	England 4
Australia 26	d	Japan 6
Canada 20	d	Iroquois 6

This left the teams at the end of the preliminary round – America 1, Canada 2, Australia 3, England 4.

The finals round was arranged so that in the semi-finals 2 played 3, and 1 played 4. Thus the first semi-final was between Canada and Australia. Canada had already beaten Australia twice, and may well have felt confident. Australia on the other hand had shown a lack of determination and concentration, but they felt they could greatly lift their game and make a match of it. This time the Australians put in a solid team effort, with an outstanding performance from the goal-keeper, Greg Larwood. Australia led by four goals for most of the day, but Canada fought back strongly, subjecting the Australian team to such pressure as it had not before encountered. But the Australians stood firm and eventually ran out winners 18 goals to 17.

The Canadians may well have thought themselves the unluckiest team in the world to lose the silver medal by one goal after having twice previously defeated their opponents.

One aspect of the game came in for vigorous criticism. The Australian team coach stated that "the umpiring was farcical, the interpretations of some overseas referees were hard to follow. However, our referees, Craig Wilson and Gordon Elder, were both very consistent, and it was no surprise that Craig Wilson was given the final". This superiority was undoubtedly due to the good work of the ALRA. This devoted body of men scrutinized rules, gave interpretations, set the standards required for the various stages of accreditation, arranged for assessors of referee performance, and gave individual advice where it was

thought to be necessary. Moreover the ALRA was a constituent member of the ALC, where by hearing the views of Councillors and offering commentary on areas with their jurisdiction, raised the standard of Australian refereeing sufficiently to earn world-wide respect.

Not only was its influence felt at international levels, but its contribution to the conduct of the humblest local competition games was incalculable. The enthusiasm for winning the 1998 gold medal was high, but of course the story of that campaign remains to be told.

In the final game, USA defeated Australia 21 to 7.

Where is the commentary on the final against the USA?

Individual distinctions were awarded as follows:-

Most valuable player	Mark Millon (USA)
Top point scorer	Mark Millon (USA)
Best attack	Chris Brown (Australia)
Best midfield	Gordon Purdie (Australia)
Best defence	J. Detommasio (USA)
Best goalkeeper	S. Locasio (USA)

World team

Goal	S. Locasio (USA)
Defence	S. Mounsey (Australia)
	D. Pietramala (USA)
	J. Detommasio (USA)
Midfield	G. Purdie (Australia)
	G. Gait (Canada)
	P. Gait (Canada)
Attack	C. Brown (Australia)
	M. Murrill (USA)
	M. Millon (USA)

1995 and beyond

To be written

2008

The Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) came into being with the merger of the International Lacrosse Federation (Men) and the International Women's Lacrosse Association.

The Australian Lacrosse Association (ALA) also came into being through the merger of the Australian Lacrosse Council (ALC) and the Australian Women's Lacrosse Association (AWLA). While this may sound simple it was not and there were many hurdles to clear to complete the merger and many issues remained after the merger.

One major issue was money!!!

2016

The Lacrosse Australia Foundation (LAF) while formed in 2013 remained dormant until 2016 when issues between ALA and ALC were resolved and monies flowed to LAF.