

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL REPORT.

1939.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration and adoption, the Annual Report of the activities of this Association during the 1939 season.

It was anticipated at the end of 1938 that the following year would be one of great success for the Amateurs and all will agree that this prognosis has come true.

With the entry of five new teams, our numbers were raised to seventeen sides, and for the first time in the history of the W.A.A. Amateur Football Association, the premier-ship competition was conducted in two divisions. The Clubs making their first appearance with us were North Fremantle, Mosman Park, Palmyra and East Fremantle, all of which had previously been members of the Fremantle Suburban Football Association. Postal Institute, which also affiliated last year, had previously been a member.

The teams representing Young Labour League and Postal Institute failed to complete the season, and I would suggest that should either of these Clubs desire to enter our Association at any future date, a definite guarantee that they will complete the season should be obtained from them, as the withdrawal of a team during the course of the season interferes considerably with the fixtures.

In the "A" division, Membley were successful, and for the second successive year, won the Sandover Shield for the Premiership side, and the Richardson Cup for the leading team at the end of the first round of games. The congratulations of the Association are extended to them, and also to the Mt. Hawthorn Club, who again had to be content with second place.

Great interest was taken in the "B" division, mainly due, no doubt, to the performances of the new teams. North Fremantle finished Premiers and annexed the Bradford Cup which they hold for twelve months. It is very pleasing to record that this team was undefeated throughout the season, and they join with Postal Institute and University as the only teams to go Champions in this Association. Our congratulations are extended to North Fremantle on their performance which was undoubtedly outstanding. In the first round of games they scored a total of £171 points, while their opponents tally was only 767.

This year, they, together with Mosman Park the runners-up in the "B" division, will progress to the "A" division, taking the place of South Perth and Claremont, who will participate in the "C" section.

The trophy donated by R.B. Henkel Esq., for the fairest and best player, was won by K. Swain, Captain and delegate of the Claremont Club. By polling 25 votes, he beat R. Filmer (University) by only 1 point, and both are to be commended on their very clean and sporting play.

Generally speaking, all games were keenly contested, and played in the true Amateur spirit. Unfortunately, however, it is necessary to record that a few of the players proved their inability to play the game properly, and these had to be dealt with by the Protests and Disputes Board. Such players are not welcome on any sporting field, and it is hoped that Club delegates and officials will endeavour to make their players realise that this Association will not tolerate anything but clean football in all matches.

With the entry of the four Premantle teams last season, new playing grounds had to be obtained, and we were fortunate in being granted the use of the North Premantle Oval throughout the whole season. This is a good ground, and one of the best we have. Premantle Park was also used on a number of occasions, while Mosman Park Oval was played on every alternate week. Other grounds were the same as in previous years, and some of them appear to have not improved in any way.

As usual the umpires received their quota of criticism, but as every Club had a different opinion regarding the individual capabilities of the various men selected, it can be assumed that their work was up to standard. Admittedly, one or two of those appointed could not adapt themselves to the new Rules or interpretations, but their services were dispensed with early. Having seen all the umpires in action, I personally consider that we were fortunate in obtaining the services of reliable efficient men, whose conduct goes so far towards maintaining the high standard of Amateur Football.

At the commencement of 1939, your Committee saw fit to elect Mr. S. Miller to Life Membership of the Association. Mr. Miller has been a keen worker for the Amateurs for many years, having given up National League play when at his best, in order to help the game in this Association. Besides being a star on the field, he has been a delegate for a number of years, and in the two Amateur Carnival teams, he has held the position of Captain and vice-captain respectively.

As in previous years, officers of the St. John Ambulance Brigade were in attendance at our matches, and this service was greatly appreciated by all members.

Owing to the International situation at present, the idea of proceeding with the 1940 Carnival has been abandoned for the time being. While this is regretted by everyone of us, it must be realised by all that no other action could possibly have been taken.

Regarding our finances, these I am pleased to state are fairly satisfactory, although some of the Club Treasurers seem to think that they are immune from the payment of match fees, etc. At present, there is about £21 owing, but it is anticipated that most of this will be liquidated before the commencement of the new season. Our balance at the Bank stands at £115, out of which, according to the value of approximately £20 have to be paid.

On behalf of the Association, I desire to express our gratitude to the W.A. National Football League, and to their Secretary, Mr. Orr especially, for the assistance given us and sincerely hope that the National game in this State will not be affected adversely by the European war cloud.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to Club Secretaries and delegates for their valuable assistance during, 1939. Particularly do I wish to mention Mr. J. Kenneally ~~xxxx~~ who, at a moment's notice, took over my work last August, when I was transferred away from Perth. Besides the Association worries, Mr. Kenneally had also to attend to his own Club's secretarial duties, and I am quite certain the amount of spare time on his hands was very nearly nothing.

I must also thank the various sub-committees for devoting so much of their time attending to our interests, and I can assure them of our great appreciation of their efforts.

H. B. GROSSVENOR.  
Hon. Secretary.