

ANNUAL REPORT. 1947.

Gentlemen.

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration and adoption, the Annual Report of the activities of this Association for the 1947 season.

To commence, let me state that I consider that 1947 was the most outstanding year in the history of this body, and this opinion I am sure you all will endorse.

With twenty-two affiliated Clubs taking part in our competition, we had 586 registered players, an average of 45 per Club. This is the largest number of players and teams to participate in the competition, and it is very gratifying to all actively associated with the Association, to know that we are entering for so many. I should imagine that very few other amateur sporting bodies in this State, have as large a playing membership as have we.

New Clubs we were pleased to welcome, were Swanbourne, East Perth, Victoria Park, Osborne Park, Teachers College and Mt. Lawley, while Interbanks, who were members in 1941, also took part last year.

The competition was conducted in three Divisions, in accordance with our Rules, and the standard of play throughout, was good.

In the "A" Division, North Fremantle went premiers, defeating Mosman Park in the Grand Final, played at Fremantle Oval. Actually, on the year's play, there was little to choose between any of the eight teams in this division, and although Midland Junction and Claremont-Nedlands, who finished at the bottom of the premiership list, were not as successful as was early anticipated, the results of their matches throughout the season, were never foregone conclusions.

South Perth, who were Premiers in the "B" Division, joined the select band of Clubs who have gone through the season undefeated. They were definitely superior to their opponents, and their performances when playing in the "A" Division this year, will be watched with interest.

In the "C" Division, where all Clubs were making their initial appearance in the Association Competition, Swanbourne proved to be the most balanced side, and won the Premiership, defeating East Perth in the Grand Final.

This year, a slight alteration has been made in the method of conducting the competition. The "A" Division remains as previously, that is the two lowest teams from last year revert to the "B" Division, while the two leading teams from that Grade graduate to the "A". All affiliated teams other than the eight in the "A" Division, will play in the "B" Division, which is being divided into zones. This experiment is being made, mainly on account of the lack of playing areas, also as an effort to minimize the travelling. It is anticipated that there will be two zones in the "B" Division, a Western and an Eastern. At the end of the season the winners of each zone will play off for the Premiership of the "B" Division.

This brings us to the subject of playing grounds, which has always been our main obstacle.

Owing to the non-cooperation and also what might be termed the subversive actions of some of the other sporting bodies, the officials of which were supposed to be honorable men, we were hard pressed for decent grounds. At times, matches had to be played under the worst possible conditions, but Club delegates realised the position, and tempers were kept under control. At this stage, I would like to express our thanks to the W.A. National Football League and the Metropolitan Junior Football Association, as well as to the W.A. Lacrosse Association, for their assistance and cooperation throughout the season.

Generally speaking, the umpiring was of a high standard, although as usual, there were one or two men who incurred the displeasure of the players. The appointment of an Umpires' coach did much towards uniformity, and his lectures and advice were educational as well as being beneficial.

It will be remembered that in 1946, the Protests and Disputes Board were not asked to sit at any time. In 1947, they made up for their easy time the previous year, and met on 5 occasions, dealing with 8 cases brought before them. It is hoped that Club delegates and officials will continually impress upon their members the necessity and desirability of playing the game, and to realise that those players who too easily lose their tempers are of little value to any Club, and certainly are not welcome in this Association.

At the conclusion of the season, the Association conducted its first Premiership Ball, when Association Trophies won throughout the season, were presented. To those who attended, the function was an outstanding success, but to the officials, it was disappointing. An average of twenty representatives from each Club was all that was required and asked for, but several Clubs were conspicuous by the non-attendance of even one member. This lack of interest is certainly surprising, and makes one wonder why some of the delegates take the trouble to attend meetings, because it is very apparent that they do not keep their Club members informed of what takes place there.

The attendances at monthly meetings of the General Committee were good, as the following list shows: North Fremantle 6 Wembley 7, Mosman Park 7 Mt. Hawthorn 7 University 6 Maylands 7, Midland Junction 7 Claremont-Nedlands 5 South Perth 7 Palmyra 7 Bayswater 7 East Fremantle 7 C. P. C. Old Boys 7 Interbanks 7 Belmont 6 Swanbourne 6 East Perth 7 Victoria Park 6 Osborne Park 1 Mt. Lawley 7 Teachers College 4 .

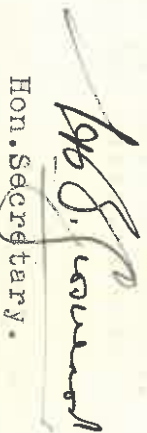
The special Committee formed for the purpose of raising funds towards the expenses of the Carnival this year, was not so fortunate in the attendances at its meetings, and once again delegates are reminded that when appointed to to any sub-committee, they are not there for fun, but are expected by their nominees to give all their help and they can to make things workable.

At the beginning of this last year, this Association applied for and was granted membership of the Australian Amateur Football Council, the other members of which are the Amateur Football bodies in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. A meeting of the Council was held in Adelaide in August last, which I attended as delegate from this Association.

Arrangements are already in hand for the next Amateur Football Carnival which will take place in Perth on August 7th, 10th and 12th, this year. It is understood that all members of the Amateur Council will make the trip, and participate in the games which will be played at Subiaco Oval. I would like to record our thanks to the W.A.N.F. League for making the Oval available to us for the Carnival, which action alone is truly indicative of the harmony and cooperation existing between the League and ourselves.

On the Financial side of this report, I refer you to the Balance Sheet, where it will be seen that despite a very strenuous and expensive year, our Credit balance has improved from £125-4-8 to £367-19-0. In this is included £100-0-0 which has been placed in Reserve by Clubs to cover the Guarantee which we have given the Eastern States members of the Council, towards their expenses in coming over to the Carnival. I am optimistic enough to think that the gate money will be sufficient to cover our guarantee, but it is wise to have a Reserve fund in case of any unexpected eventuality. I would like to point out that some of the Clubs have not contributed towards this Reserve Fund to date, but I have no doubt that with the start of the new season, this omission on their part, will be rectified.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to delegates and other Club officials, and especially to the members of the Executive Committee, for their help during the year. The success of any Amateur sporting body can only be attained by the willing efforts of all concerned, and I think we have been indeed fortunate in the personnel of our General Committee, and of our Sub-committees. With a very strenuous year ahead, I must warn delegates, that nomination to a sub-committee is going to take up most of their spare time for the next six months.


Hon. Secretary.

20.2.1948