

ANNUAL REPORT. 1977

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Western Australian Amateur Football League covering our activities over the past year.

This year we started off with 54 Clubs fielding between them 117 teams. Two Clubs fell by the wayside and our team numbers were reduced to 114. It will be remembered that twelve months ago, a large majority of Clubs indicated that they were not happy with the Reserve grades, nor with an A2 Division, and so for 1977 we reverted to just A;B;C;D, etc.

Competition was keen in all divisions, especially in the top segment. In every division - as is usually the case - there was one weak team, also in most divisions there was not much difference between the first seven teams. The Committee has always endeavoured to grade the teams to make competition as close as possible, which everyone appreciates must bring out the best in the players with the natural improving of the standard of play.

Our Committee has spent much time and considerable discussion on regrading for 1978, taking performances in 1977 as their main guide. They also had to bear in mind the rapid growth of population in new outer suburbs and the large depletion of potential players in some of our older suburbs. With the large number of new Colts teams nominated - which is wonderful to see - the committee has completely redesigned "C" Division, mainly to enable as many as possible of the "C" Colts to play on the same Oval as their senior team. This has meant the transferring of a number of teams from this year's "C" to next year's "D". If the teams brought up for 1978 are as good as they claim to be, we should have our best ever competition in all grades.

In 1977, our "E" Division was comprised entirely of teams from 'Educational Establishments'. The main purpose of grouping these teams together was to enable their fixtures to be drawn up to allow a bye or byes during their vacation and examination times, thus decreasing the possibility of forfeits which are not appreciated by anyone.

Premiers in each Division were as follows:- 'A' University; 'B' Maylands; 'C' Mt. Lawley; 'D' Hamersley; 'E' Churchlands; 'F' Osborne Park; 'G' East Perth; 'H' Churchlands; Sunday' Swan Valley.

With the Affiliation of new Clubs, one of the requirements is a 'Home' ground, and in this regard we have been fortunate. Being built in new areas some of the Ovals have not yet 'hardened up' but this will eventuate. Unfortunately with the lack of rain over the past two years, the scarcity of grass on some of our Ovals has turned them into sand patches which certainly mitigated against the playing of good football on them.

Shire Councils generally have been most co-operative, and Club Officials should continue to work closely with them. Many Councillors are obviously not aware of the number of young people participating in Amateur sport in their towns or suburbs, and it does not do any harm for Club members to keep their local members fully informed of their activities in this regard.

As usual we had Umpire problems in the season just concluded. After discussing the subject of Umpires with officials of other sporting bodies, we were not alone in this regard. If it were possible for all those interested in umpiring to attend organised training we would have no worries, but in recent years many young men interested, have other commitments, e.g. studies which take up most of their time after work. Those who were able to attend training under the direction of Mr. George Meiers, showed continuous improvement as the season progressed. Several of our Umpires from the previous year were appointed to the V.A.N.F.L.

panel in 1977, showing that we are still their best recruiting ground. If only every one of our Clubs could persuade at least one of their retiring players to try themselves out in the umpiring department, we would have no worries.

Some Club officials appear to think that a person has only to apply for reinstatement to have his application approved. This is definitely not so, as a number found out in 1977. Every case is dealt with on its merits and the special Committee investigates all applications thoroughly. Several were approved.

Members of the Permit Committee met every Wednesday throughout the season, and had a busy time checking the credentials of players. All Clubs had been warned that the Committee would be much stricter than in previous years and as a result, several teams lost matches through playing ineligible players and received the automatic fine applicable. A little latitude was given in the first two weeks to allow the Registrar to complete his Master Sheets. However, next season, these will be ready for the first games, so its 'on' from the start.

We had a number of reports that other teams were playing 'crookies' but unless the reports are submitted in writing with something definite to go on, very little can be done. If an official of a Club is certain that another Club is playing an ineligible player, it is his duty to all other Clubs to report the matter to the League with full details.

The Tribunal was called together only ten times during the 1977 season to sit in judgment on players reported by the umpires. There were thirty-four players charged, one of whom was given the benefit of the doubt and the other thirty-three found guilty. Our thanks goes to the members of the Tribunal who give up their time to helping Amateur Football.

Eighteen meetings of the Management Committee were held during the season. For the convenience of members, this Committee met at 6.0 p.m. on Monday evenings and usually finished about 7.0 p.m. Decisions taken by this Committee were circularised to all Clubs per our Newsletter. These were issued at least once per fortnight with premierships tables on the alternate weeks. Clubs were asked to collect these and other papers from our rooms on Thursdays, between 12 noon and 2.0 p.m. but unfortunately only about half the Clubs were interested.

We dealt with over fourteen hundred clearance applications in 1977. The transfer of players between Amateur Clubs is minimal, while there would be at least three times as many players, asking for clearances to our Clubs as there would be to go elsewhere. We had some clearance applications not filled in completely, with the result that they could not be processed. Club Secretaries should check every clearance before forwarding it; this will save time.

We had a visit from the South Australian Amateurs and played them at Subiaco Oval as a preliminary to the W.A.N.F.L. - S.A.N.F.L. game on July 30th. As a lead-up, we visited Albany where we had an easy win against a combined team from the Southern Districts League, this being followed a week later by a win against The South West League at Bunbury. We were very confident, especially when we led South Australia by several goals at half time. However to their credit they fought back and gained a very meritorious win.

For the first time in an Interstate game in this State we tried out the interchange of reserves proposed Rule, and all agreed that it has much merit. Most of the A" Division teams reported in favour of this Rule after that Division had operated with it throughout the season.

As mentioned in last year's report, our Financial Year closes officially on 30th November. There is a notice of Motion to amend this to 31st October to enable preparation of Balance Sheet at the Annual Meeting in future. However, with still a few large accounts to come in for Ground hire, it appears that we will show a small profit on our budgeting. We had a good income from Fines - over \$2000 - which together with a donation from the W.A.N.F.L. towards the cost of running the Colts competition. These items of course, cannot be budgeted for at the start of the season, and are our real profit. Clubs generally have been excellent in meeting their dues, and quite a number claimed their discount for paying their match fees in a lump sum prior to the start of the season.

As anticipated twelve months ago, there was a large rise in ground hire charges in some Shires, although this was partly offset by others whose policy is not to make any charge for Amateur bodies using a ground for the first time. This action is greatly appreciated. Our Umpires' expenses were heavier than ever before, while postage set an alltime record (over \$300).

In conclusion may I express on your behalf, our sincere appreciation to the members of the Management and Permit Committees as well as our Tribunal for the time they all gave during the year to helping things run so smoothly. I am sure that new members will have gained much in their knowledge of this League, and it is hoped that the Committees in 1978 will continue with the good work.

Others to whom we must genuinely offer our thanks are the W.A.N.F.L. for their very close cooperation at all times and their financial assistance towards our Colts competition; to the W.A.Turf Club, we also say 'Thank you' for permitting the Clubs to sell tickets for the June holiday Race Meeting; to Mr. Gordon Cox of J.L. Burley we are indebted for his presentation of Trophies to the leading Goal kicker in each Division. To all Club Officials, I personally appreciated your cooperation throughout the year. My wish for the future is that more Officials will call at our rooms during the season (on Thursdays) to collect mail and other papers, as well as discussing any problems which you may have. Our Registrar Mr. Tom Naylor has done a mighty job for the League, while our Assistant Secretary, Mr. Bruce Wainwright has had his hands full looking after the Umpires as well as taking scores on Saturdays. He also was a member of our Selection Committee and helped us out on most Saturdays with his Umpiring. We really have had a great year, in fact one of the best.

H. B. Grosvenor.
HON. SECRETARY.

POSITION OF TEAMS AT THE END OF THE QUALIFYING ROUND OF GAMES. 1977

"A" LEAGUE

| | | | |
|-------------|------|------|----|
| Mt. Lawley | 2182 | 1211 | 64 |
| Wembley | 2024 | 1221 | 56 |
| University | 1356 | 1367 | 52 |
| North Beach | 1728 | 1400 | 50 |
| Nollamara | 1494 | 1568 | 42 |
| Carlisle | 1670 | 1390 | 40 |
| C.B.C. | 1321 | 2130 | 20 |
| Old Wesley | 1437 | 1897 | 16 |
| Melville | 1133 | 1704 | 16 |
| S.T.C. | 930 | 2316 | 4 |

"A" COLTS.

| | | | |
|-------------|------|------|----|
| University | 1777 | 529 | 64 |
| Wembley | 1452 | 774 | 52 |
| Carlisle | 1287 | 900 | 52 |
| North Beach | 1150 | 1014 | 48 |
| S.T.C. | 1209 | 1056 | 40 |
| Mt. Lawley | 978 | 897 | 40 |
| Old Wesley | 1105 | 1017 | 36 |
| C.B.C. | 544 | 1482 | 12 |
| Nollamara | 530 | 1587 | 8 |
| Melville | 545 | 1660 | 8 |

"B" LEAGUE

| | | | |
|-------------|------|------|----|
| Maylands | 2131 | 1148 | 60 |
| Scarborough | 1895 | 1222 | 58 |
| University | 1737 | 1395 | 56 |
| North Ftle. | 1871 | 1617 | 44 |
| Bayswater | 1863 | 1557 | 38 |
| W.A.I.T. | 1546 | 1515 | 36 |
| Floreat Pk. | 1528 | 1658 | 36 |
| Marist | 1196 | 2069 | 16 |
| Wembley | 1282 | 2020 | 12 |
| Swanbourne | 869 | 2322 | 4 |

"B" COLTS.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|----|
| W.A.I.T. | 1617 | 626 | 64 |
| Marist | 1617 | 840 | 64 |
| Bayswater | 1609 | 781 | 60 |
| North Ftle. | 884 | 1163 | 40 |
| University | 909 | 1156 | 36 |
| Maylands | 787 | 1073 | 32 |
| Floreat Pk. | 915 | 1082 | 28 |
| Swanbourne | 728 | 1166 | 16 |
| Wembley | 558 | 1057 | 12 |
| Graylands T.C. (Withdrew.) | | | |

"C" LEAGUE

| | | | |
|--------------|------|------|----|
| Trinity O.B. | 2262 | 950 | 68 |
| Mt. Lawley | 2250 | 1072 | 64 |
| Collegians | 1450 | 1101 | 56 |
| Carlisle | 1730 | 1501 | 36 |
| University | 1464 | 1794 | 32 |
| Wembley | 1350 | 2032 | 32 |
| Olweath Bank | 1385 | 1713 | 28 |
| C.B.C. | 1394 | 1776 | 28 |
| Perth | 1063 | 2054 | 8 |
| Floreat Pk. | 857 | 2671 | 8 |

"C" COLTS.

| | | | |
|----------------|------|------|----|
| East Vic. Park | 1850 | 486 | 72 |
| Morley | 1097 | 819 | 48 |
| Murdoch | 1035 | 1283 | 28 |
| North Beach | 657 | 1588 | 16 |

"D" DIVISION

| | | | |
|-------------|------|------|----|
| Ashfield | 1646 | 1151 | 60 |
| City Beach | 1973 | 1071 | 56 |
| Coolbellup | 1813 | 1179 | 56 |
| Hamersley | 1733 | 1162 | 56 |
| Nollamara | 1303 | 1349 | 32 |
| Maylands | 1409 | 1490 | 32 |
| Old Wesley | 1232 | 1576 | 32 |
| North Beach | 1298 | 1851 | 14 |
| R & I Bank | 1202 | 1843 | 14 |
| Marist | 780 | 2325 | 8 |

"D" COLTS.

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------|----|
| Churchlands T.C. | 2853 | 884 | 64 |
| Graylands T.C. | 2510 | 1316 | 52 |
| Murdoch | 1952 | 1302 | 52 |
| Mt. Lawley T.C. | 1809 | 1249 | 52 |
| University | 1578 | 1797 | 36 |
| Claremont T.C. | 1735 | 1780 | 32 |
| Teachers | 1480 | 1681 | 32 |
| W.A.I.T. | 990 | 2280 | 16 |
| S.T.C. | 711 | 2660 | 12 |
| Muresk | 1096 | 2035 | 8 |

"E" DIVISION

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|----|
| Whitfords | 2171 | 1273 | 58 |
| Osborne Park | 1825 | 1106 | 56 |
| M.H.W.P. | 1968 | 1195 | 48 |
| University | 1783 | 1294 | 48 |
| Bayswater | 1814 | 1717 | 36 |
| Melville | 1429 | 1470 | 34 |
| Mt. Lawley | 1562 | 1593 | 28 |
| North Ftle. | 1422 | 1562 | 28 |
| Scarborough | 1097 | 2052 | 16 |
| Swanbourne (Withdrew) | | | |

"E" COLTS.

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|----|
| East Perth | 2602 | 787 | 66 |
| Swan Valley | 1616 | 1184 | 42 |
| Dianella | 1516 | 1143 | 42 |
| Collegians | 1597 | 1145 | 42 |
| C.B.C. | 1331 | 1410 | 38 |
| Ashfield | 1078 | 1601 | 32 |
| Carlisle | 1169 | 1743 | 32 |
| Whitfords | 1113 | 1958 | 20 |
| North Beach | 1019 | 1757 | 12 |
| Maccabi (Withdrew) | | | |

"F" DIVISION

| | | | |
|--------------|------|------|----|
| Trinity O.B. | 2336 | 1112 | 68 |
| Morley | 2158 | 1072 | 60 |
| Wanneroo | 1968 | 1312 | 56 |
| Churchlands | 2262 | 962 | 52 |
| Innaloo | 2176 | 1457 | 50 |
| Nollamara | 1845 | 1616 | 40 |
| Perth | 1338 | 1832 | 24 |
| Coolbellup | 1276 | 1910 | 24 |
| Old Wesley | 1181 | 1817 | 18 |
| Mt. Lawley | 942 | 1738 | 16 |
| Hamersley | 1074 | 2219 | 16 |
| Whitfords | 512 | 2123 | 8 |

"F" COLTS.

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|----|
| Swan Valley | 2427 | 1038 | 68 |
| Morley | 2498 | 1043 | 64 |
| Graylands | 2146 | 1277 | 60 |
| Innaloo | 1670 | 1217 | 44 |
| M.U.F.C. | 1618 | 1565 | 36 |
| Hellenic | 1071 | 2027 | 30 |
| Fire Brigades | 1403 | 1772 | 24 |
| Willetton | 1279 | 1953 | 16 |
| Doubleview | 1014 | 2173 | 14 |
| Bedford | 824 | 2161 | 4 |