

Groups 8-19 R.L. Referees' Association

ANNUAL REPORT

1978

GROUPS 8/19 RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1978

Gentlemen,

I present the annual report for 1978.

The season we have just completed has been one of significance for this Association. Not only are we celebrating our fortieth year as the representative body for Rugby League referees in this region, but we can look back on several achievements.

In 1978 we remained the third largest referees' association in the N.S.W. Country Rugby League; we provided the main rules lecturer and the coaches for the C.R.L.R.A. camp at Narrabeen; and we maintained our unbeaten success rate at our own camp - 16 candidates sat for, and passed, examinations. There is an important link between each of these achievements. It is the fact that over the years this Association has developed into a vigorous and dynamic organisation concerned not only with improving its own standards but also with encouraging Rugby League and the art of refereeing. None of this would have been possible without a very real sense of commitment on your part to the code of Rugby League and to upholding the standards we have set ourselves. Our Coaching Director, Nev Norris, is to be congratulated for a job well done at Narrabeen and he, and his panel of coaches and other assistants have earned our thanks for making our own camp the success it was. The candidates are also to be congratulated for the work they put in as individuals and as a group. But while it is important that these individual efforts be recognised, we should not lose sight of the fact that they are only possible because of the commitment all of you have to supporting them.

You will note from the attached financial statements that our affairs are in good order. It comes as something of a surprise to see that the Association has the financial standing of a small business, but the fact that it does is another

illustration of our growth.

Once again our Social Committee made an important contribution to the life of the Association. This Committee's activities have provided the means by which we can remain in contact both during the football season and after it. This is especially important when our membership is spread over such a wide geographical area. The Committee is to be thanked for its endeavours during the year. So too are Ian and Dianne Alder for putting up with us at our games night.

Another important means of staying in contact has been our weekly newsletter "In Touch". The newsletter remains a vital part of the Association's life and the Committee which puts it together has again done a magnificent job. But a small plea: never believe that turning out "In Touch" each week is an easy job. It is not. I hope that next year more of you will help out by contributing articles and anecdotes.

This year saw the introduction of two innovations. The first was our decision to hold a second meeting in Goulburn. I am sure that this has been a successful initiative and coupled with our earlier decision to elect a third Vice President who is not resident in Canberra, demonstrates our belief that we do have responsibilities outside the A.C.T. The second innovation was our acceptance of an invitation by the "Goulburn Evening Post" to contribute a weekly column to "Sports Post". The object of the column was to discuss practical aspects of refereeing and the rules of the game in an endeavour to promote a greater understanding of these with the football public. I hope we have been successful.

To all those who participated in Grand Finals and representative fixtures go our congratulations. Refereeing a grand final is a goal to which we all aspire but it is unfortunately one which cannot always be achieved by everyone in the one season. Nevertheless, the fact that we are all trying to reach that goal can only improve our overall standards.

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This year of course saw the introduction of a new uniform for Country Rugby League referees. While many of us have views about the quality of the gear itself, I think we would all agree that the design has met with wide acceptance not only from referees but also from players, spectators and club officials. We now have a distinctive uniform which, despite the views of some, does away with the need for so-called "neutral" jumpers. The distribution of the new gear to our members was handled by Purchasing Officer Bob Lloyd and we thank him for his endeavours. Despite the introduction of the new uniform, your Executive has been concerned this year with a decline in overall dress standards. For some people referees' pre-occupation with dress may appear a little mis-directed. The point is not that we insist on a high standard of dress for the sake of it but that a properly attired referee indicates to players and spectators alike that he takes his job seriously. We have a uniform which is to be worn in a certain way. If it is possible for the majority to do this, it should also be possible for the minority.

It is unfortunate that again this year the Association clashed with administrators over the composition of the Referees' Appointments Board. You are all familiar with the arguments about this and I therefore do not intend to go over them. However I believe that problems of this kind would not arise if the administrators were more prepared to talk openly with us about the principles we wish to advance, rather than regarding our efforts as an attempt to somehow run football in this area. This Association has a positive role to play in advancing the standard of Rugby League and it is about time that the views we express are accepted in the spirit in which we offer them.

In recent weeks the C.R.L. Boundaries Committee has been examining the future format of competitions in Groups 8 and 19. This concerns us as much as it does the clubs as we are in the unique position of having to supply from one Association referees for two Group competitions, as well as the Minor League. If the Boundaries Committee imposes residential

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qualifications on the new competitions - whatever form they take - then we will find difficulty in being able to function efficiently. Accordingly, the Executive sought to appear before the Committee to express these views. We were told however that our presence was not required. Nevertheless, we have taken steps to have our views brought before the Committee by writing to the Secretary of the C.R.L. through C.R.L.R.A. Whether we are successful in having those views put before the Committee remains to be seen, but at least we have tried.

Thus far I have dealt with 1978. What about 1979? In previous years I have regarded the encouragement of our newer and younger referees as the most important task facing us. I am still of that view. In the past we have lost some of these young men through, among other things, a lack of encouragement and even perhaps their own sense of not being part of our activities. For that reason we merged the former Minor League Referees' Association with this senior body. I hope that in 1979 our more experienced referees will go out of their way to offer advice to new referees and that that advice will be accepted in good faith. There is no doubt that Rugby League will continue to grow in this region and our younger members will provide the strength for this Association in the years ahead.

The new year will bring challenges and perhaps some difficulties for us, particularly if the C.R.L. Boundaries Committee radically alters the composition of our two senior competitors. I hope that we will be able to work our way through these in a spirit of unity and always for the good of the code and the art of refereeing.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your support and dedication during the past season. I have appreciated the help and guidance provided by the other members of the Executive. Peter Frazer, of course, deserves special mention. The job of Secretary of this Association is demanding, time

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consuming and at times downright frustrating. We have been fortunate to have in Peter a man who is dedicated to his job as Secretary and to advancing our interests. I am sure you all agree with me when I say we are indebted to him for his efforts on our behalf.

Janine and I wish you and your families all the best for the coming festive season and I look forward to refereeing with you again in the new year.

Jim Mahoney
PRESIDENT

October, 1978

GROUPS 8/19 R.F.L.R.A.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1978

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
General Account	7,519.81	5,913.06
Investment Account	1,105.45	1,144.47
	<u>8,625.24</u>	<u>7,057.53</u>

K. J. Pickard
HON. TREASURER

I have examined the books and accounts of the Association and find they reflect a true and fair view of the financial situation of the Association.

P. J. Frazer

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Balance as at 30.9.77 \$7,519.81

add INCOME

1977 Season Receipts 2,147.80

Fees and travel	1,075.50
Affiliations	235.00
Insurance	226.80
Narrabeen Camp	45.00
8/19 Camp	108.00
Sale of Stock	455.50
Badge	4.00

1978 Season Receipts 12,514.50

Affiliations	884.00
In Touch	669.00
Jersey Badges	100.00
Uniforms	1,876.00
1977 Annual Dinner	456.00
Narrabeen Camp	150.00
8/19 Camp	683.94
Trial Fees	1,150.00
Match Fees	5,215.50
Travel	1,023.80
Interest	24.12
Miscellaneous	20.50
Sale of Stock	101.50

\$21,981.87

less PAYMENTS

16,068.91

1977 Fees and Travel	8,167.25
Purchase Uniforms and Stock	3,115.65
Purchase Badges	141.00
C.R.L.R.A.	328.00
Group 8 Affiliation	25.00
Printing of forms	431.00
Mick Holmes Appeal	100.00
Tribute late Roy Mills	10.00
Secretary, honorarium and telephone	197.00
1977 Annual Dinner	1,113.55
Social Functions	566.10
1978 Camp	758.80
1978 Narrabeen	140.00
1979 Camp deposit	60.00
In Touch	595.68
Insurance	270.00
Miscellaneous	49.90

Balance as at 30.9.78

55,915.06

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Balance as at 30.9.77	\$1,105.45
add <u>INCOME</u>	
Interest	<u>59.04</u>
Balance as at 30.9.78	<u><u>\$1,144.47</u></u>

NOTES TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNT

Balance as at 30.9.78	5,915.00
add <u>UNCOLLECTED INCOME</u>	5,971.45
Goulburn 2nd Div. Fees	1,375.00
Goulburn 2nd Div. Travel	494.00
C.D.M.R.L. Fees	477.15
Affiliations	229.00
Camp	69.90
Insurance	270.00
Narrabeen	20.00
Uniform and Stock Sales	1,018.40
Badges	18.00
	<u>9,884.51</u>
less <u>EXPECTED EXPENDITURE</u>	
Fees and Travel	<u>8,642.45</u>
Balance of Association Funds	<u><u>\$1,242.06</u></u>