

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL LEAGUE.

### ANNUAL REPORT - SEASON 1931.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith the Annual Report of the South Australian Baseball League for the 1931 season. As the Report indicates, the past season has been one of progress and development, and full of interest to followers of the game. Baseball is rapidly gaining in popularity, each season bringing forth additional teams and players, while an increasing number of spectators is found watching the games each week. The success of the League is dependent on the support and enthusiasm of the clubs and players, and with the continuance of the happy spirit prevailing in 1931, we can look forward with confidence to an equally successful season during the coming year.

### DISTRICT SCHEME.

After very careful consideration by a committee appointed for the purpose, a scheme providing for district baseball was placed before the League, and duly adopted. It was considered that such a scheme would be of lasting benefit to the game in this state, by confining membership of district clubs to residents of the respective districts. By this means the practice existing in the past of the strongest teams attracting the best players would be discontinued, with the result that the teams would be more evenly matched, and the standard of competition raised. At the same time it was hoped that the support of local residents would be obtained. The scheme provided for the admission to "A" grade of teams representing the following districts, viz:- Adelaide, East Torrens, Glenelg, Goodwood, Kensington, Port Adelaide, Prospect, Sturt, and West Torrens, together with a team from the University. Each of these clubs would be expected to nominate a "B" grade team, and non-district teams would also be eligible to compete in "B" grade. As a result of the scheme Goodwood Ramblers ceased to exist under that name, and founded the Glenelg Club; Port Adelaide secured promotion to "A" grade; and a club was formed at Prospect with teams competing in "A" and "C" grades. It is regrettable that the adoption of this scheme led to the exclusion from "A" grade of the Millswood and Y.M.C.A. teams. The former club disbanded, but the Y.M.C.A. continued operations, and was represented by a team in "B" grade.

### COMPETITIONS.

With the number of new teams joining the League each year, it was considered opportune at the commencement of the 1931 season, to inaugurate a "C" grade

and has resulted in a higher standard of play in "B" grade, which is now composed of experienced teams and players.

The competitions in all grades were keenly contested throughout the season, interest being maintained right up to the last match. During the season, twenty eight teams competed, the number of registered players being 333. "A" grade consisted of 10 teams, "B" grade 10, "C" grade 7, while in the week-end section Sacred Heart College was opposed to 6 of the "B" grade teams.

In "A" grade the minor premiership was secured by Goodwood (16 wins and 2 defeats), the other semi-finalists being University (15 wins and 3 defeats), Kensington (15 wins and 3 defeats), and West Torrens (10 wins and 8 defeats). Adelaide tied with West Torrens for fourth place on the result of matches, but the latter team had the better percentage of runs for and against. Then followed Port Adelaide, Sturt, East Torrens, Prospect, and Glenelg, in that order. A gratifying feature of the competition was the success attained by Port Adelaide and Prospect Clubs in their initial season in "A" grade. In the semi-final games Kensington defeated Goodwood by 1 run to nil, and University defeated West Torrens by 16 runs to 6. In the final game Kensington defeated University by 5 runs to 4, and in the grand final Goodwood reversed the decision in the semi-final game, by defeating Kensington by 7 runs to 2 and thus winning the premiership for the fourth time in five years.

In "B" grade the teams finished the minor round in the following order, viz:- Goodwood, West Torrens, Sturt, Kensington, Glenelg, Y.M.C.A., University, East Torrens, Adelaide, and Port Adelaide. In the semi-final games Goodwood defeated Sturt by 11 runs to 7, and Kensington defeated West Torrens by 13 runs to 5. Kensington defeated Goodwood in the final by 12 runs to 8, and repeated its victory in the grand final by 17 runs to 8, and winning the premiership. Kensington's ultimate victory was particularly meritorious as this team had lost five of the first six matches of the season. From that time, 6th June, until the conclusion of the season, the team suffered only one defeat.

At the conclusion of the minor round in the week-end section, Goodwood secured the minor premiership, followed by Sacred Heart College, Kensington, Glenelg, Port Adelaide, East Torrens, and Adelaide. The semi-finals resulted in Sacred Heart College defeating Glenelg by 7 runs to 3, and Kensington defeating Goodwood by 8 runs to 1. In the final game Kensington beat the College by 14 runs to 13, and again beat Goodwood in the grand final by 11 runs to 10, thus winning the double premiership.

The teams in "C" grade completed the minor round in the following order, viz:- Sturt Royals, Adelaide Colts, Underdale, Sturt Blue Sox, West Torrens Colts, Prospect, and University. Sturt Royals defeated Underdale by 13 runs to 5, and Sturt Blue Sox defeated Adelaide by 15 runs to 5 in the semi-final games. In the final game, Sturt Royals won from their club mates by 17 runs to 9, and having already won the minor premiership, thus secured the premiership in "C" grade.

The League extends its congratulations to the premiers and runners-up in all grades.

AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL CARNIVAL.

After an interval of four years the Australian Baseball Carnival was held in Adelaide, from 1st to 8th August 1931. Except for the fact that South Australia failed to win a game, the carnival was a complete success. Matches were played on four days during the week, and a full round of entertainment provided. The Victorian and New South Wales Associations had selected strong teams, and South Australia was represented by its best players, twenty two players taking the field during the four games.

The games in which South Australia participated were keenly fought out, but the matches between New South Wales and Victoria resulted in surprisingly easy victories. On 4th August New South Wales scored 7 runs to 1, while on 6th August the result was reversed, Victoria winning by 7 to nil.

The carnival opened with the first match between Victoria and South Australia. At the end of the 8th innings the score was 3 runs each. South Australia failed to score in the 9th innings, and Victoria in its corresponding half, had two men out without result, when two out-field hits resulted in a runner crossing the plate, thus gaining the victory for Victoria. The following game between New South Wales and South Australia was even more closely contested, each team having scored 2 runs by the end of the 9th innings. The game was continued for two more innings without further score, when failing light led to the cessation of play with honours even.

On 8th August South Australia met New South Wales in the first game, the visitors winning by 2 runs to nil. With two men out in the 7th innings a timely hit by the New South Wales captain drove in two runs. This hit won the game for New South Wales, as no other runs were scored by either side. The final game of the carnival was between Victoria and South Australia, and, as on the first Saturday, was won by Victoria in the 9th innings, when the visitors scored the only run of the match.

At the commencement of the last day's play it was possible for any state to win the carnival premiership. Following South Australia's defeat by New South Wales, the issue was than left between Victoria and New South Wales, and not until the conclusion of the final match was it known that Victoria had secured the honours. We heartily congratulate the Victorian team on its success, which was certainly earned. The following is a summary of the results of the matches:-

	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>Runs for</u>	<u>Runs against</u>
Victoria	4	3	1	-	13	10
New South Wales	4	2	1	1	11	10
South Australia	4	-	3	1	5	9

Although South Australia did not succeed in winning a game, their representatives were in no way disgraced. The fact that only nine runs were scored against this state in four games is, in itself, an achievement, and indicates that the pitching and fielding were of the highest standard. Had the batting been of the same stand-

between Victoria and South Australia, each team played an error-less game.

The holding of the carnival in this city has, without doubt, been of great benefit to the game. Many spectators, seeing the game played for the first time, were greatly impressed by its possibilities, and we look forward to increased attendances at our club games as a result. The thanks of the League are due to the many assistants, without whose services the carnival would not have been such a success. It would not be possible to mention each individual, but I would refer particularly to Mr. A. V. Thomas, the Manager of the Team, on whose shoulders rested much of the organisation, Mr. Vic. Sharp, the official scorer, and the members of the Ladies Committee, who were ever-ready with their invaluable aid in dispensing of refreshments. To all of these, and to the many who are unnamed, we offer our grateful thanks. We also thank most sincerely those who generously assisted the League with donations, and also those motor-car owners, whose cars were placed at the League's disposal.

Among the entertainments arranged was the League Annual Dance, held at the Palais Royal. This function was particularly well attended and resulted in a nett profit of £10-14- 6.

#### AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the Australian Baseball Council was held in Adelaide during the carnival, representatives from the three states being in attendance. The main business was the proposition introduced by the New South Wales Association, providing for interstate matches being played in each capital city every year, similar to the interstate cricket competition for the Sheffield Shield. As the proposal was rather indefinite the meeting requested that the New South Wales Association should forward to the other state bodies, through the Council, a more tangible proposal. After much correspondence and consideration, this League has intimated that it would be prepared to accept such a scheme, on condition that 25% of the gross proceeds of games played in Sydney were handed to this League. As the Victorian Baseball Association does not consider the time opportune for the introduction of a scheme of this nature, it is improbable that it will become effective during the coming season.

#### INTER-UNIVERSITY CARNIVAL.

We congratulate the Adelaide University on again winning the Inter-versity Baseball Carnival, which was held in Melbourne last year. The Adelaide team was successful in winning the series without the loss of a game.

#### MT. GAMBIER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION.

It is pleasing to note the formation of a baseball association at Mt. Gambier, one of the moving spirits being Mr. C. Braybrook, late of the Goodwood Club. This body was granted affiliation by the League, and we look forward to the time when the game will become established in other country towns.

#### UMPIRES AND SCORERS CLUB.

Through the efforts of Mr. L. C. Poole an Umpires and Scorers Club came into existence during the year, with Mr. G. W. Chapman as President, and Mr. Poole, Secretary. A club of this nature can be of great value in the standardization of scoring, and in the interpretation of rules. The best wishes

of the League are extended to this club for a happy and successful existence.

We thank the umpires for their services in the past, and trust that they and others will be available for the coming season.

AMATEUR SPORTS CLUB.

Following the formation of the South Australian Amateur Sports Association, an Amateur Sports Club has now been formed with club rooms on North Terrace. Membership of the club is opened to all members of affiliated amateur sporting bodies, and the club has already obtained a large number of members, and can now be regarded as firmly established. Messrs. P. A. Ohlstrom and A. V. Thomas have been appointed to act as representatives of the League on the committee of management of the club.

SMOKE SOCIAL AND PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES.

At the conclusion of the season a Smoke Social was held at the Oriental Hotel, presided over by our Patron Mr. S. J. Jacobs. The function was well attended, but it was unfortunate that owing to various circumstances, the President and several Vice-presidents of the League were unable to be present. The trophies won during the season were presented to the premier teams, Goodwood receiving the E. P. Lower Cup for the premiership, and the Claude Ewers Cup for the minor premiership in "A" grade, Kensington receiving the C. S. Catt Cup for the premiership in "B" grade, and a pennant for the premiership in the week-end section, and Sturt Royals receiving a pennant for the premiership in "C" grade. Mr. Jacobs very generously offered to donate to the League a trophy, to be applied as was considered in the best interests of the game. The Executive Committee has given consideration to the competition prospects for the coming year are known. We most cordially thank Mr. Jacobs for his generosity, and also the donors of the other trophies.

*Allocation*

SCHOOLBOYS' BASEBALL LEAGUE.

At the close of the season a committee was appointed to consider the matter of forming a Baseball League for schoolboys. There are at present a number of schools where the boys are keen to play Baseball, but it is difficult to obtain official recognition of the game by the educational authorities. The chief difficulty is the matter of finance, but the committee is hopeful that arrangements can be made to provide the equipment, and so lighten the cost to the players.

LEAGUE MEETINGS.

Seven meetings of delegates were held during the year. The attendance of delegates was particularly good, there being an average of nineteen at each meeting. The Executive Committee had a busy year, fourteen meetings being held with an average attendance of five. We wish to thank Messrs. C. S. Catt and P. A. Ohlstrom for the use of their offices for these meetings.

OFFICIAL BLAZER.

During the year the League adopted a design for an official blazer in the new colours, viz. dark blue, red and gold. The wearing of the blazer is limited to interstate representatives, commencing with last year's teams.

Uniforms in the new colours were used for the first time during the carnival, and are a great improvement on the old colour scheme.

PUBLICITY.

We desire to thank the various newspapers and sporting writers for the publicity we have obtained during the season, and hope that their valuable services in this connection will be continued.

In conclusion I wish to thank most sincerely those officers and members of committees, without whose aid the League could not hope to carry on. The Treasurer, Mr. S. W. Smith, had a particularly strenuous year, as will be seen from the financial statement, which totals £343-13-8. It is a tribute to his efforts that we have finished the season with a credit balance of £51-12-3. The Assistant Secretary, Mr. R. C. Scott has also been a hard worker on the League's behalf, and has been able to relieve the Secretary of a great deal of detail work, and as a member of four committees, has kept in close touch with the League's affairs. The other members of the committees have also rendered valuable services, and I would mention particularly Messrs. A. J. Bartlett and W. A. Shepley, who have acted with Mr. Scott on the Permit and Match & Grounds Committees. The work of these committees keeps these gentlemen particularly busy right throughout the season, and it is through the work of enthusiasts such as these that the League is enabled to function as smoothly and efficiently as it does.

A. T. LUKE.

Hon. Sec.

Adelaide, 31st March, 1932.