

Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure that I present herewith the annual report of the League for the 1934 season.

There is no doubt that the 1934 season was the most successful yet experienced by the League. A record number of teams participated in the League competitions, the South Australian team was successful in winning the carnival honours for the first time, and the South Australian school-boys were successful in a series of matches played in Melbourne against the Victorian schoolboys. The finances of the League are in a very healthy condition and we look forward to another successful year in 1935.

COMPETITIONS.

In the ordinary grade competitions 35 teams competed. "A" grade consisted of 10 teams, "B" grade 13, and "C" grade 12. In the week-end section of 6 teams competed, while in the schools competition 9 teams were engaged.

The following tables give the positions of the teams at the conclusion of the minor round.

	<u>"A" GRADE.</u>				For.	Ag.	Pts.
	P.	W.	L.	D.			
University	18	13	3	2	106	35	28
Goodwood	18	14	4	-	139	57	28
Adelaide	18	12	6	-	141	65	24
Prospect	18	12	6	-	111	59	24
East Torrens	18	11	7	-	104	89	22
Sturt	18	9	9	-	103	159	18
Kensington	18	6	11	1	76	113	13
Glenelg	18	4	13 13	1	75	128	9
Port Adelaide	18	4	14	-	48	120	8
West Torrens	18	3	15	-	45	123	6

	<u>"B" GRADE.</u>				For.	Ag.	Pts.
	P.	W.	L.	D.			
University No.1	17	12	5	-	171	108	24
East Torrens	17	12	5	-	179	132	24
Goodwood	17	11	6	-	174	95	22
Port Adelaide	17	11	6	-	148	120	22
Kensington	17	10	6	1	157	165	21
Sturt	17	10	7	-	191	120	20
Goodwood Ramblers	17	10	7	-	155	131	20
Y.M.C.A.	17	9	8	-	160	136	18
Glenelg	16	7	9	-	154	179	14

"B" GRADE NO. 2

	P.	W.	L.	For	Ag.	Pts.
University	6	4	2	46	31	8
East Torrens	6	4	2	56	48	8
S. H. College	10	6	4	77	54	12
Goodwood	6	3	3	55	21	6
Glenelg	6	3	3	58	78	6
West Torrens	6	-	6	28	88	-

"C" GRADE

	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Ag.	Pts.
East Torrens	16	13	3	-	268	136	26
Goodwood	17	13	4	-	272	162	26
West Torrens	16	12	4	-	195	139	24
Glenelg	17	10	7	-	214	147	20
Mount Barker	17	9	8	-	300	276	18
Port Adelaide	17	8	8	1	160	172	17
Sturt Royals	17	8	9	-	197	202	16
Glenelg Cubs	17	8	9	-	197	269	16
Sturt Blue Sox	17	7	10	-	200	203	14
Y.M.C.A.	17	5	12	-	167	260	10
Prospect	17	4	12	-	181	267	9
University	17	3	14	-	104	222	6

The results of the semi-final and final games

were:-

"A" grade

Semi-final	University	5	Adelaide	1
"	Goodwood	7	Prospect	1
Final	Goodwood	2	University	0
Challenge Final	University	6	Goodwood	5

"B" grade

Semi-final	Goodwood	5	University	3
"	East Torrens	7	Port Adelaide	5
Final	Goodwood	4	East Torrens	3
Challenge Final	Goodwood	14	University	7

"B" grade No.2

Semi-final	Goodwood	11	East Torrens	2
"	University	3	Sacred Heart College	1
Final	Goodwood	11	University	8
Challenge Final	Goodwood	12	University	8

"C" grade

Semi-final	Glenelg	16	Goodwood	10
"	X West Torrens	9	East Torrens	0
Final	Glenelg	16	West Torrens	5
Challenge Final	Glenelg	12 16	East Torrens	4

X Match won by East Torrens 16-4, but awarded to West Torrens because of breach of permit rule by East Torrens.

To the successful teams in each grade we offer our sincere congratulations, and particularly to University, who gained the honours in "A" grade after a very keen struggle with Goodwood, who had won the premiership in the previous three years. We must also commend the members of the Goodwood club for the gracious manner in which they acknowledged their defeat.

SCHOOLBOYS' BASEBALL.

In the schools competition Adelaide High School No. 1 team gained the premiership in the first division, while Adelaide Technical School was the successful team in the second division. The following schools were represented:-

Section 1. Adelaide High (2 teams)
Unley Central and Norwood Central.

Section 2. Adelaide Technical, Goodwood Central, Unley Central and Thebarton Technical (2 teams).

The value of this competition has been proved conclusively, for many of the boys have been absorbed by League clubs, and are acquitting themselves with credit in all grades.

At the invitation of the Victorian Baseball Association a team of schoolboys, with Mr. W. Wiles as manager, visited Melbourne to play a series of games against the Victorian schoolboys. The rubber was won by the South Australian boys, to whom we offer our sincere congratulations. The scores were:-

S.A.	9 1/2	Victoria	2
S.A.	8	Victoria	4
Victoria	8	S.A.	4

Once again we must acknowledge the very fine work performed by Mr. Wiles in giving up his Saturdays to coach the boys, and thank him most sincerely for his efforts. We also thank Mr. L. C. Poole for his valuable assistance in organising the teams.

TROPHIES.

We were most fortunate to have several trophies presented for competition, and to the donors of these we offer our grateful thanks. The trophies now competed for are:-

"A" grade Premiership - E. P. Lower Cup
Minor Premiership - Claude Ewers Cup
(held by University)

"B" grade Premiership - C. S. Gatt Cup
(held by Goodwood)

"B" grade No.2 Premiership - P. A. Ohlstrom Cup
(held by Goodwood)

"C" grade Premiership - M. C. Kriewaldt Cup
(held by Glenelg)

Schools Section 1 Premiership - S. J. Jacobs Cup
(held by Adelaide High School No. 1)

Schools Section 2 Premiership - L. C. Poole Cup
(held by Adelaide Technical School)

AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL CARNIVAL.

The 1934 carnival, held in Adelaide, provided a most interesting series of games, and resulted in a victory for South Australia for the first time. The South Australian team was narrowly beaten in the first match, but was undefeated in the rest of the games. The play at times reached a very high standard, and the success of our team was evidence of the marked improvement which has taken place in recent years.

The results of the games were:-

August 4	S.A. 4	Vic. 2
	N.S.W. 2	S.A. 0
7	Vic. 5	N.S.W. 4
9	Vic. 6	N.S.W. 6
11	S.A. 2	N.S.W. 1
	S.A. 8	Vic. 5

The following players, to whom we offer our congratulations, represented South Australia:- P. A. Ohlstrom (Capt.) R. M. Sharpe, A. Smith, C. Puckett, J. Ray, K. Taylor, G. Jolley, K. Gillespie, N. Todd, R. Vaughton, J. Noble, R. Pellet, C. Keynes, M. Nelson, F. Stapleton, S. Swanson and N. H. Hutton.

We thank Mr. R. E. Sharpe (Manager), Mr. R. C. Scott (Scorer) and the other helpers, particularly the ladies, for their valuable assistance towards the success of the carnival.

We also thank the Sacred Heart College for kindly allowing us the use of the College Oval for several week-ends preceding the Carnival games. The State players were thereby enabled to obtain practice as a team, which was no doubt of great benefit in the actual games.

During the carnival week our old friend and well-wisher, Mr. N. A. Claxton very kindly offered to present a shield for competition between the three States. His offer was accepted with the greatest of pleasure, and South Australia has become the first holder of the Claxton Shield. A very handsome shield was subsequently handed over to the League by Mr. Claxton, and we now record our keen appreciation and gratitude for his generous gift.

The League Ball, held during Carnival Week was most successful, and returned a net profit of £8.15.11.

UNIVERSITY BASEBALL.

We again offer our congratulations to the Adelaide University Baseball Club on its continued success in the inter-university games. Adelaide has now won the varsity premiership for five consecutive years.

FINANCIAL

The Treasurer's statement shows a balance at the close of the year of £78.10.8, compared with the opening balance of £37.12.6. Unfortunately several Clubs were unable to meet their obligations in full, with the result that we are carrying forward the sum of £56-3-0. We hope that it will be possible to collect the whole of this amount within the near future.

GENERAL.

Seven meetings of delegates were held during the year with an average attendance of eighteen. There were also eleven meetings of the executive committee. The thanks of the League are due to the Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, and members of the various committees for their very valuable assistance in the conduct of the League's affairs. We appreciate very much the publicity given to Baseball by the newspapers and trust that we shall continue to receive the same consideration in the future.

PERSONAL.

It was with much regret that we accepted the resignation of Mr. W.A. Shepley from the position of chairman. Mr. Shepley had given many years of valuable service to the League in various capacities. His resignation was inevitable as he had been transferred to Sydney. We wish him every success in his new sphere.

A.T. LUKE,

Hon. Sec.

15th March, 1935.

Last year, I presented to you a statement of the income and expenditure of the League just as I have done this evening. This, I believe, is the procedure customary with Treasurers at meetings such as the one for which we are gathered here this evening.

This evening, however, I propose, with your permission, to go a step further, my object being to make a brief analysis of the figures I have just read you. To direct your attention to a matter in the affairs of the League which is of paramount importance to all of you, and to make two suggestions which have, for a considerable time, been in my mind.

I am sorry that I cannot place in the hands of every one of you a copy of this year's accounts and of this statement, but if you will give me your undivided attention and concentrate on what I have to say, I hope you will, at least to some extent, be able to follow me and to discern what I am driving at.

Now, first of all, the Income Book, and what have, in order to be a real success and to advance the game of baseball in this State, the very loyal and active assistance of all club officials and all members of clubs. I cannot help but feel that, in the past two seasons (that is since I assumed the office which I am about to vacate) that this assistance has not been as great in some quarters as it might, or should, have been.

Now you should know that the constitution of the League provides that Affiliation fees shall be paid by the first day in each year. The League needs ready cash early in the season to meet current expenditures, the chief item of which, at that time, consists of the payment of rent for the grounds you play on.

The per centum of Affiliation Fees received at the end of May, June, July, August and September in the years 1952 and 1955 was as follows :-

	<u>1932</u>	<u>1933.</u>
May		12%
June	44	40
July	60	52
August	71	71
September	72	85

Owing to the tardiness with which these Fees came to hand, it was not until the months of *August* and *September* in the years 1932 and 1933 respectively that the last of the ground rents were paid.

This is quite a serious matter, and may, if allowed to continue, result some day in the loss of a ground or grounds in consequence of our inability to pay the rent early in the season.

The Executive Committee of the League has not been unmindful of the position. It has always taken a very tolerant view of the inability of any Club to pay its Affiliation Fee by the prescribed date, and July realises the difficulties which beset you in these days. However, something must be done to improve this state of affairs, and I venture to say that, with the co-operation of everyone, it will be done.

Now for an analysis of the accounts.

The Bank balance brought into the accounts for the 1933 Season from the 1932

Season was £13 5 10

to which add Arrears of Affiliation Fees for the 1932 Season

which were paid in full during 1933

making £26 15 6

The balance in the bank to-day is

£37 12 6

to which add Arrears of Affiliation Fees, etc. for 1933 which

are expected to be recovered in full

12 6 6

making £49 19 -

It may be claimed, therefore, that the League's finances improved during 1933 by the small amount of

£3 5 6

At the close of the 1931 season, the credit balance was and there were then arrears which were collected later making in all

£51. 12. 3

6. 2. 3

£57. 14. 6

The League's finances have, therefore, gone back during the past two years by

£ 7. 15. 6

However, it must be remembered that that favourable balance in 1931 was due ^{almost} entirely to the successful Carnival held in Adelaide that year, and which directly resulted in a profit of

£444

The League provides grounds, bears the expense of equipping and marking these grounds, pays the umpires and incurs certain administrative expenses.

These items for 1933 were :-

Lease of Grounds	£65	1	-
Working Grounds	29	7	11
Umpires' Fees	42	-	-
Equipment	15	19	12
Junior and Interstate	10	12	10
Administrative Expenses	20	6	5
	<u>£191.</u>	<u>7.</u>	<u>4</u>

Material

To meet this expenditure, all of which is for the direct or indirect benefit of the Clubs, the League received from the Clubs, or will receive when all affiliation fees are paid, the following amounts :-

Affiliation Fees, etc.	£142	11	-
Registration Fees	10	17	6
Special Permits	2	7	6
	<u>£155.</u>	<u>16.</u>	<u>-</u>

It will, therefore, be seen that for the £155/16/- they contributed last Season Clubs received value to the extent of £191/7/4. Very good business from their point of view, no doubt, but a standard which the League cannot afford to maintain.

The deficiency was \$35/11/4.

The League's solvency last year was made possible by the receipts from the "Open Competition and Dance, and this result was due practically entirely to the wonderful efforts of the Goodwood and Sturt Clubs, who deserve the highest commendation for their unselfish and splendid work. The total receipts from this source were

£108 1 11

less Expenses and Club's shares

46 11 9

leaving

£61 10 2

Out of this amount

40 7 6

was contributed towards the expenses of the State team's trip to Sydney

leaving

£21. 2. 6

to go towards wiring, but the deficiency of \$35/11/4 already referred to.

These special efforts to raise funds are, as you know, made primarily to enable the League to make a contribution of an amount, as large as possible, towards the expenses of each of the players chosen to represent the State in interstate matches played away from home.

Last year the League provided £5- for each man. It should have been possible to do better than this. £5- per man or more should be the aim of the League.

Furthermore, these efforts should be launched earlier in the season to permit of their being finalized before the departure of the year.

Now I come to my suggestions. ^{Finally} in connection with Affiliation Fees, a matter which will come up for discussion at the first meeting of Club Delegates for the season.

The figures produced this evening will have convinced most of you, if not all, that the time has arrived when an increase seems to be inevitable.

The thought that has been running through my mind is that the League's method of levying funds from the Clubs is wrong.

Under the system which has been in force for the past few seasons, a Club consisting of an A Grade team only with a membership of 11 has contributed in Affiliation and Ground Marking Fees at the rate of 13/-d. per member

Clubs with A and B teams, say 23 members 10/-d. per member

" A, B & C. " 34 " 8/4

" A, B & 2C " 45 " 7/-

In addition there is the Registration Fee of 6d. per member.

This reveals the inequality of the burden.

I would suggest that, in order to distribute the burden equally among all players whether A.B. or C, for all enjoy the same privileges, that the Affiliation Fee be a nominal amount only, say 5/- per team whether A.B. or C., and that the Registration Fee for every player be fixed free year to year at an amount that would be sufficient to cover the expenditure of the League for the season. In assessing the Fee, it would be necessary for the League to prepare a budget of its estimated expenditure.

Furthermore, to bring all Clubs into line as regards the provision of funds to assist in financing the state team when visiting other States, I would recommend that the requisite amount be included in the Registration Fee.

From the details given you this evening, subject to any amendments that might be necessary owing to the addition of new clubs, withdrawal of old ones or for other reasons, a Registration Fee of 12/-d. is arrived at on the following basis :-

Direct expenditure for benefit of Clubs 2191/7/4, divided by the number of players registered in 1933, viz. 435 = say 3/100d., add to this 3/-d. for the purpose of

Interstate trips (which would give the desired figure of 35- per man), and we have a Registration Fee of say 12/-d.

The extra 3/- should not be at all troublesome to Clubs if you choose to reflect that the Goodwood Club last year in connection with the Queen Competition alone raised on an average more than 21/- per member. That a field this opens up for Clubs in which to direct their energies in raising funds for themselves.

~~The~~^{The} other suggestion I have to make is for the appointment of say three Trustees ^{whom} shall be paid annually a fixed per centage of the Leagues receipts with the object of building up a fund which may only be drawn upon for a specific purpose or purposes to be declared in the Deed of Trust. For example, the purpose of such a Trust could be the acquisition by the League of a ground of its own upon which to be erected suitable dressing accommodation.

I thank you for your attention, and trust that I have not wearied you. When I sat down to write this report, I had no idea that it would take so many words to express myself.

In outlining my ideas, I fully realise that they are not perfect, but I trust I have, at least, succeeded in giving you some food for thought, and perhaps these suggestions will be the foundation upon which a better structure will take form and lead to ^{greater} prosperity and stability in the affairs of the South Australian Baseball League.