

PUBLICATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Preamble

In July 2003, a Discussion Paper on ASSH publications was circulated to the Executive and made available to members. The guiding principle was that both the quantity and quality of ASSH publications should continue to be improved. It was also intended that the decisions, actions and policies of the Publications Committee would become more transparent to members of the Society. This document reiterates the issues raised in the initial Discussion Paper, and notes the current status of some specific items.

Publications Committee

- Draft new position descriptions for members of the Publications Committee, and advertise these positions in the Society's *Bulletin*. Confirm interim arrangements with existing members of the Publications Committee. Appoint and announce successful applicants by July 2003. **[Completed. The members of the new Publications Committee were announced at the July Conference and contact details were listed in the August *Bulletin*. As part of the changeover, Murray and Bernard have agreed to share review duties for the November 2003 issue of *Sporting Traditions*]**
- Compile policy and protocol manual for Publications Committee. **[Ongoing. Members of Publications Committee have responded to such issues as conflict of interest, and selection of material for the journal and the *Bulletin*].**

Sporting Traditions

- Produce a more detailed style guide for authors. **[Due for completion on 14 November 2003]**
- Subject to approval by the Treasurer, move as soon as possible to production of three issues of *Sporting Traditions* per volume (with volumes to match calendar years). **[On hold. Limited feedback has not been positive]**
- Reassess publication schedule of the *ASSH Bulletin* on the recommendation of the *Bulletin* editor **[no discussion as yet]**
- Consider formulation of policy re publication of non-Australian/New Zealand material in *Sporting Traditions* (eg limit proportion of non-Australian/New Zealand material to one third of each issue, excluding special 'theme' issues) **[On hold. Insufficient feedback]**

- Consider implementation of one guest edited 'theme' issue of *Sporting Traditions* per volume (see notes under ASSH Special Studies below). Encourage book review 'forums' for each issue of each volume whenever possible. **[Some progress, but subject to future revised publications schedule]**
- Form new Editorial Board and draft guidelines for the operation of this Board. **[Small number of additions and deletions made. Guidelines expected to be available in December 2003]**
- Liaise with new designer re format of *Sporting Traditions*. Solicit suggestions for any potential changes or improvements from the ASSH membership. **[Completed. See Editorial in May 2003 issue]**
- Upgrade quality of off-prints distributed to authors (eg consider saddle-stitch binding and include in the off-print the Table of Contents and ASSH subscription details) **[on hold. Awaiting publication and distribution of May 2003 issue]**
- Arrange for publication of updated index of *Sporting Traditions* (and the ASSH *Bulletin*). Distribute in hard copy and post electronic version on the Society website. **[No action taken as yet]**

ASSH STUDIES

- Publish submissions by ASSH Honours prize winners (commencing with immediate past winners, Jacklyn Hartley [UNSW, 2001] and Anna Spurling [Deakin, 2000] as ASSH Special Studies. Develop template for forematter, and include list of all past winners.
- Consider publishing other successful (unpublished) Australian and New Zealand sports history honours theses (from the last five years?) as ASSH Special Studies. Develop criteria for publication (eg receipt of suitable examiners' reports)
- Determine the feasibility of publishing an annual list of sports history honours theses.
- Alternatively, encourage recent unsuccessful entrants and other honours graduates to submit an article based on their work for publication in *Sporting Traditions*.
- Audit all current proposals and works-in-progress for ASSH Special Studies. Develop publication guidelines and processes to ensure that all current proposals and works-in-progress are published by the end of 2003. Consider whether some of the long-standing proposals would be

more suitable as theme issues of *Sporting Traditions*, with guest editors. **[All the above items have been discussed in face-to-face meetings and email exchanges with Ian Warren. Publication of honours theses and other projects expected early in 2004. Other items are ongoing]**

Other

- Assess current status of ASSH Directory of Scholars and determine process for hard copy and electronic publication. **[No action as yet]**
- Arrange for hard copy and electronic publication of most recent version of the Society's constitution. **[On hold. Awaiting report of constitutional review sub-committee]**
- Determine a 'free list' for distribution of ASSH publications including *Sporting Traditions* (eg selected media outlets, government officials, other scholarly associations). **[On hold. Awaiting publication of May 2003 issue and feedback from members of the Publications Committee]**
- Consider exchange of subscription flyers with journals of other sport history (or like-minded) associations. **[No action as yet]**

Note: Publication of the May 2003 issue was delayed, for which I take responsibility. Distribution of the journal is expected within two weeks. The November 2003 issue is expected to be distributed in late December 2003 or early January 2004. Any feedback on the new design and format will be appreciated.