

Lena Hodges, *NSW Women's Hockey 1908-1983*. NSW Women's Hockey Association, Sydney, 1984. Technical assistance by Mollie Dive. Illus., pp.120. \$10. Available from author 3/625 Anzac Parade, Maroubra.

This book, as its title indicates, is designed to recount the history of the development of women's hockey in NSW since the first

women's game was played in Australia in 1901. The content provides a rather thorough description of the development, changing structures, set-backs and successes of this particular State Association from its formation.

The contents are structured year-by-year, with sub-headings that highlight such things as special occasions, specific teams including, State, National and Touring groups, Country Association developments, and coaching and umpiring items of historical note. Care appears to have been taken in identifying all of the major participants in the Association and their specific contributions to the game and the State group during these years.

The information is presented in a clear, precise manner with an occasional humorous anecdote which gives welcome relief to the more documentary or reporting style. I see this more as a descriptive than an analytical history because it does not attempt to account for any of the influences that contributed to various changes or events. For example, the author notes that at the all States meeting of July, 1910, The All Australian Women's Hockey Association was formed, and it was at this meeting that the NSW Association took the title of 'Women' instead of 'Ladies'. Unfortunately, we are not given any of the details or reasons why this occurred at that time.

A major flaw is the lack of a table of contents or an index. Near the end of the book are lists of all the important office bearers, various committees, Life members, Honours Board identities (which seem the sole province of those serving as President, Secretary and Treasurer at the time); selectors and managers; and finally, a complete list of all NSW representatives in both State and National competitions. But one must discover these without any aid.

While the book covers the activities and personalities of the Association up to 1983, the majority of the content probably will be most appealing to those participants during the 1950 to the 1975 period. There are interesting photographs of many of the State and National teams, and of various influential members of the Association in action on the field.

undoubtedly, this book will be of great nostalgic value to the members of the Women's Hockey Association. It will also provide some interesting background for any historians interested in the people who helped make women's hockey so continuously popular in this state and Australia or those who find it fun to follow the changes in sporting apparel for women over 75 years.

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