

## EDITORIAL PREFACE

As a boy I supported Barnsley soccer club, a dull denizen of the lower reaches of the English Football League. Consequently I find it hard to comprehend the passion which Collingwood appears to inflame in friend and foe alike. The debate in this issue's Book Reviews and Barrackers' Corner is highlighted by Morley & Wilson's article in which they point out that VFL attendances are higher when Collingwood are expected to lose. At Barnsley the crowds were so small that the match reports featured the names of the spectators!

More seriously, I would like to emphasise that the pages of *Sporting Traditions* (and of the *A.S.S.H. Bulletin*) are open to all members of the Society. Short articles or brief comments are as welcome as major contributions. Perhaps some of you who also belong to cricket societies might care to comment on Ian Harriss's interpretation of the development of their favourite sport. I would also like to solicit responses to Brian Stoddart's new book, *Saturday Afternoon Fever*. It is an important work - the first analytical Australian sports history text for many years - and as such merits serious attention. Although this issue features a major review of the book, I'm sure that those who contemplate using it as a text would be interested in additional comments.

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