

neglects India, Pakistan and New Zealand, but its composite message is clearly delivered: Sport is an integral feature of life and culture and deserves more scholarly attention than it has enjoyed hitherto. It not only dominated Victorian life but came also to dominate the lives of others with whom the Victorians came into contact. A careful study of sport therefore can tell us as much about any society as we are likely to learn from an examination of its politics, religion or economy. This, of course, is obvious. But it is an important message of which some social historians still need to be reminded.

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Jack Pollard, *AUSTRALIAN HORSE RACING: A RACEGOERS COMPANION TO THE AUSTRALIAN TURF*, Angus & Robertson, 1988, Illus., pp.x + 752. \$59.95.

Neville Penton, *A RACING HEART: THE STORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN TURF*, Collins, Sydney, 1987. Illus., pp.363. \$45

Although these two books are designed to appeal to a similar market and even contain many of the same anecdotes they are vastly different works. Pollard's book is a small encyclopedia. Penton's is an illustrated history.

Jack Pollard's *Australian Horse Racing* attempts to provide a comprehensive coverage of racing people, places, horses, races, famous events, infamous incidents and racing terms. Although it provides a gold

mine of information, the book suffers from the usual problem of selection and classification common to such encyclopedias.

Horse owners will dispute the omission of their much-loved horses to provide space for others such as the over-rated Ring the Bell, who won a New Zealand Derby in 1980 and nine other races from 29 starts, but whose main claim to fame was that he disappointed his connections and thousands of punters on his ventures to Australia and Europe. Similarly some of Australia's hundreds of race clubs will be annoyed at their omission. Some, such as the Clarence River Jockey Club at Grafton will be bemused to find that their club, which at times has laid claim to the title of Australia's premier country club is not mentioned even in a list of provincial centres of racing in NSW, despite the inclusion of lesser lights such as Cowra and Gunnedah.

Readers will also be puzzled by some classifications. Despite the listing of numerous jockeys, trainers, officials and owners by their surnames, people such as Joe Brown, Bill Collins and Ken Howard are found under the collective heading Race Broadcasters. More importantly names such as Pam O'Neill, Beverly Buckingham and Betty Lane are all classified under the heading Women in Racing despite the fact that their achievements are more significant than many of the men considered worthy of separate listing.

For the general reader, Pollard has included a useful glossary of racing terms, illustrations such as the anatomy of a racehorse and descriptive information on such things as anabolic steroids. The book is also sprinkled liberally with maps of racecourses and tables of results for major races. Although the tables will date quickly, they, like the whole book, will remain a very useful work of reference and should find a place

on the bookshelf of anyone who has a serious interest in our racing past.

Neville Penton's book is also worth having on the bookshelf or the coffee table. It is a lavishly produced descriptive history of Australian horseracing. The very readable text, which concentrates more on anecdotes than analysis, is supported by hundreds of well produced and well chosen illustrations. It is broken up by the use of boxes in which Penton has placed chronological lists of significant events and small snippets of information. Other boxes are used to highlight particular anecdotes.

*A Racing Heart* is presented in 32 substantive chapters supported by a section which provides maps of all our metropolitan racecourses and another which offers tables of results for the major races. Penton could be accused of weighting the book too heavily towards the present. Only one-third of the work deals with the nineteenth Century but almost as much space is devoted to the last twenty years, with six chapters on the 1980s. However this is probably a function of the availability of information and the perceived interest of the book's readers.

Penton has provided a mixture of informed discussion of significant themes and events and a collection of interesting anecdotes which provide the real flavour of the horseracing world. Despite its twentieth-Century emphasis, Penton's book is the best general history of horseracing produced so far. It is comprehensive in its coverage. It is

highly readable and well produced. For any student of Australian sports history who needs an introduction to the world of horseracing *A Racing Heart* is an essential text.

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Wray Vamplew, *PAY UP AND PLAY THE GAME: PROFESSIONAL SPORT IN BRITAIN, 1875-1914*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1988. Appendices, tables. pp.xix + 394, \$102

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth Century organised professional sport emerged as a new mass consumption industry in Britain. While sport has attracted the interest of popular and social historians it has been ignored by economic historians who have studied the economic growth of late Victorian and Edwardian Britain. Vamplew's masterly *Pay Up And Play The Game* seeks to fill this void in examining the growth and development of professional sport in Britain in the period 1875 to 1914. As Vamplew explains in the preface his aim 'was to produce a quantified economic and slightly social, history of commercialised sport by the application of comprehensible economic theory to hard, empirical data' (p. xiv).

In conducting his research and examining various issues Vamplew has focused on four major sports. They are horse racing, cricket, football (or soccer), in both Scotland and England, and northern union (or rugby league) following its split from rugby union over lost time payments for players in 1895.

The book is organised into six sections. The first contains two