

**Book Notes (Reviews Editor)**

*Allan's Australian Cricket Annual 1989-90*, 3rd edition. The author, Perth, 1990. Illus., stats. pp. 257, \$17.95 plus \$9 postage from Allan Miller, 139 Busselton Highway, Busselton 6290.

On the evening of 14 June 1990 when the manuscript for Allan Miller's third annual had almost been completed, fire destroyed much of his library and seemingly all of his manuscript. Allan was 'extremely disheartened' by the loss of so much painstaking research collected together by a veritable army of dedicated statisticians around the country. The thought of assembling and checking a manuscript again of over 250,000 words and figures must have been just a little daunting.

Fortunately, more than two weeks later, he 'found a pot of gold' when 'sifting through a charred heap on the back lawn': 'a near-complete run of 160 pages of scores for this annual, burnt around the edges but largely intact.'

The phoenix-like resurrection of Allan's third annual is particularly welcome. It is bigger, better and brighter - in fact there is no sporting annual in the country which comes anywhere near it. It is an invaluable reference work for any sports historian.

The range of material covered in this volume is most impressive. Allan has even included a section on 'dissent and misconduct for season' - a convenient summary of major and minor discord for the season. There is, in addition to daily crowd figures, a convenient summary of attendances of various matches. It is quite encouraging to note that the fourteen limited over internationals (the World Series Cup) only drew 50 per cent more than the total Shield crowds: 350,268 to 222,668. Four Shield matches in Sydney (admittedly including the Final) attracted the good total of 58,371.

I know of no other annual or publication which includes errata and addenda from its previous volumes but also includes a section on 'Corrections to Other Sources and Publications, Discrepancies' in other works. This turns out to be quite a substantial entry of several thousand words.

Congratulations then to Allan Miller, a member of ASSH, and his team of researchers for reproducing such an outstanding annual. I only hope that there will be fewer near disasters in the production of future issues. There have been many previous Australian annuals but few have lasted beyond a few issues or at best a decade. Let's hope that *Allan's Annual* will prove to be the exception.

ASSH was pleased to make a small contribution towards the reestablishment of Allan's library by replacing the copies of *Sporting Traditions* which were destroyed by fire.

**Winifred Dickinson, OAM, (comp), *A History of the Australian Croquet Council 1949 to 1986* illus. tables. pp. 28, \$10 plus \$1.50 postage from the author, 36 Garden Village, Port Macquarie 2444.**

Croquet has a long but not very well documented history. It had a close association with modern lawn tennis in the 1870s when the Wimbledon tournament began. An Australian team travelled to England to play a series of Tests against England in 1937 and continued on to Ireland where it won the coveted Eire Cup.

The literature on many minor sports, such as croquet, is so thin that any publication is welcome. This slim volume has a lot of interesting reference material on trophies, competitions, sponsorship, dress, badges and symbols and the development of administration. There is also some material on the atmosphere and ethics of the game. Hopefully it will inspire some sports historians to explore this sport further.

This volume is enhanced by some interesting illustrations and cartoons.