

**An editor replies:**

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Shame, shame, shame! How could we have misspelled Louella McCarthy's forename? At least her recognition of our attempt to give women's sport and female sportspersons a fair go in the *OCAS* frees us of any charge of male chauvinism (Katharine Moore would not have allowed it anyway). On behalf of the editorial board, and from the viewpoint of someone whose first name and surname are frequently abused by even the least dyslexic, I can only apologise to LOUELLA, assure her that the mistake will be corrected in the reprinted volume,

and, in part compensation, guarantee her that more bowlers (lawn not ten pin) will feature in the biographical entries in the revised version.

Lawn Bowls is a major participant sport in Australia and thus my promise (fingers crossed behind my back while talking to the publishers) should not upset those critics, mainly outside *Sporting Traditions*, who believe that *OCAS* devoted too much attention to so-called minor sports. Generally, however, we received bouquets rather than brickbats for our policy of covering as wide a range of Australian sporting activities as we did. Nevertheless, there is merit in the suggestion that the more popular sports should have received greater biographical coverage. The limiting factors in the first edition were space and the desire of the editorial board to acknowledge the efforts of 'stars' in the less mainstream pursuits. Even here, as Elery Hamilton-Smith makes clear, we failed to keep everyone happy.

I do, however, take issue with the view that the merits of sportspersons should be reflected in their column inches in *OCAS*. If international ability was adopted as a criterion some entries would disappear together; how should we judge Australian rules footballers; and is any sport not included in the Olympic program worthy of a biographical entry? With no intention to denigrate Sir Donald, the greatest cricketer ever, his sport was played at test level during his career by very few countries. To be more specific in my response, Phil Smyth merited inclusion in *OCAS* for his contribution to Australian sport.

Whilst thanking him for his favourable review, I would counsel readers to temper Chris Harte's comments with an awareness that *OCAS* is not 'authoritative and encyclopaedic'. The former would have required far more editorial checking than our responses permitted and the latter many more pages than the publisher's cost accountant would accept. It should also be noted, as Elery Hamilton-Smith points out, that the intention of *OCAS* was to be more than a reference work. But, to take issue with Elery, it is also more than a history volume: indeed Rex Harcourt takes us to task for not being more historical in our Australian rules biographies.

As all reviewers have noted there are errors and omissions in this first edition. At this point let me appeal for factual errors (differences of opinion are another matter) to be notified to any of the editors and for any omissions (Rex - the North Smith medal appears under the entry Smith medal) to be rectified by readers transmogrifying themselves into writers.

Now for good news: at least for the Society's bank balance if not for the editor's workloads. As intimated above, *OCAS* is to be reprinted in 1993 and revised, with an additional 75 000 words, for publication in 1994. The revised edition will contain a few more thematic essays (hopefully covering coaching, sport for the disabled, poetry and regionalism) and a further twenty to thirty illustrations, both features of *OCAS* which have been widely praised. There will be substantially more biographies, mainly from the more mainstream sports (including all Olympic and Commonwealth gold medalists). This time clubs will find a place and not merely via entries on the 'Colliwobbles' and 'St Kilda's Premiership'. Finally, there will be lists of premiers, medalists, crowds and other worthwhile sporting historical series. Additionally all previous contributors will be asked to revise and update their initial entries. I look forward to commenting on the next set of reviews.