

This book fulfils its objective as a comprehensive textbook for beginning students. The discussion questions and references could extend its use as a foundation work for graduate programs, particularly those without undergraduate predecessors.

While the book has little direct relevance for the Australasian market, all of the issues raised are significant. Even the discussions focusing on North American sporting governance raise parallel concerns for women in sport in New Zealand and Australia.

This book would serve as an excellent foundation for anyone wishing to establish a women and recreation/sport subject who does not quite know where to start

Clare Simpson

Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism

Lincoln University, New Zealand

Robert Coleman *Seasons in the Sun: The Story of the Victorian Cricket Association.* **Hargreen Publishing Company, Melbourne, 1993. Append., bibliog., illus., index. pp. 819.**

A history of one of the leading cricket administrative bodies in the country has long been overdue. The Victorian Cricket Association (VCA) commissioned Robert Coleman in 1987 to remedy this. An expected two to three year assignment developed into six years of extensive research and writing.

Cricket in Victoria developed along parallel lines to the growth of the burgeoning colony. The Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) was formed in 1838, within three years of the birth of the colony. Their initiatives led to the first intercolonial contests in the 1850s. These early 'Victorian' teams were virtually MCC teams. The forming of further clubs produced wider representation in selection.

The Victorian Intercolonial Cricket Committee was formed in 1858 by the leading clubs, to arrange and administer matches between

the colonies. The model metamorphosed several times over the next four decades. Disbandment, periods of absence, and reformation under the new titles were a feature of this period. The administrative stability of the Melbourne Cricket Club filled the periodic voids. The VCA finally emerged in 1895 and has continued without further break. The struggle for administrative control of interstate cricket took another twenty years, interspersed with periodic disputes, before the VCA was accepted as the senior body.

Robert Coleman has documented all these events in detail and continued the story to the present day. He has also dealt with all the various personalities that shaped and determined outcomes throughout the long period of development. In fact, it is the fascinating biographies woven into the story fabric, that are the real strength of the overall work

Seasons in the Sun is what I would call a 'benevolent' history. There are no real criticisms of either the organisation or the individuals. Only the positives shine through. I am not necessarily advocating that it should have been a 'warts and all' approach, but there must have been some areas of criticism that could have been recorded.

A personal criticism is that of chronology. The story is opened with a detailed account of the Centenary Test of 1977, followed by events that occurred before, during, and after. The Centenary Test was no doubt one of the VCA's real success stories and I have no argument with the length of coverage. However, I feel that a definitive history should chronicle all events in the correct order.

The work has been meticulously and painstakingly researched. No serious errors of fact or time have been noted. *Seasons in the Sun* is recommended, without reservation, as required reading in any study of the administrative development of cricket in Victoria and Australia

Ray Webster
Melbourne