

Editorial Preface

It is pleasing to note that four of the five major contributors in this issue are publishing for the first time in *Sporting Traditions*. There will be another group of 'new writers', including some graduate students, in the next issue. This is an encouraging development underlining the expansion of research on sports history. It would be uncharitable not to welcome the remaining author, who wrote the other article in this issue. Braham Dabscheck is our most prolific contributor to *Sporting Traditions* and his fifth article appears in this issue.

The 'face' of *Sporting Traditions* will change in the next issues as agreed at the last Annual General Meeting at Brisbane. You will see the results of the first stage—a changed internal layout—in this issue. Some of the new features include a special page, 'Notes on Contributors', a new font and layout style, headings at the top of each double page which provide author, title and volume details. Any reactions, including suggested modifications, will be appreciated.

There was also agreement at Brisbane for a changed cover design. Drafts will be considered over the next year for adoption in volume 13, July 1996 to June 1997.

An extra section has been added to the Reviews, that of Thematic Reviews. This section includes shorter reviews of two or three books on a particular theme (1000 and 2000 words) which distinguishes it from a Review Article which is a more substantial piece of work (3000 to 4000 words).

The fees for the Society have been increased for the first time since 1983. The escalating cost of paper, postage costs and the size of the journal—we are in a sense a victim of our own success with more pages and members—are the prime economic reasons for change. However, there is a more important reason for increased fees. For many years it was believed that we should make *Sporting Traditions* available at the cheapest possible price. This was achieved through prudent management and subsidies, courtesy of the *Companion* series and of individual universities. The former two Editors were remarkably successful in maintaining fees at their 1983 level. ASSH membership fees were far lower than any other academic organisation in the 1990s. Times have

changed and our field has become stronger and more confident. The journal has built up a fine reputation both in Australia and overseas. It now seems appropriate to convey a sense of research excellence and professionalism in the format of the journal.

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