

Editorial Preface

This is first issue that I can recall when ‘overseas’ articles outnumber those on Australian topics: there are two articles with a stated Australian focus, two on New Zealand and one on Canada. This balance of this journal reflects in part the quality of material submitted from countries other than Australia, particularly from New Zealand. Another reason is that the demarcation between Australian and non-Australian articles, which seemed quite clear a decade ago, is which less evident in a more global sporting era. Australian sports historians are starting to realise that ‘Australian’ sport has always had more global elements than we imagined. The first ‘Australian’ article explores at the globalisation of Australian sport taking the Danish Australian Football League as a case study. One of the ‘New Zealand’ articles explores New Zealand reactions to an Australian sporting crisis, Bodyline, and makes some interesting comments on the neglected topic of Australian-New Zealand sporting relations, a rich and largely unexplored theme. Canadian-Australian relations represent another topic which could be placed on the research agenda. No one has yet explained how and why lacrosse became a popular sport in late nineteenth century Australia. There are also some interesting comparisons between the Australian and Canadian experience to be made when looking at sporting tours in this era.

It is good to see a continuing interest in minor and hitherto-neglected sports. The last issue of the journal introduced snowboarding and this issue features discussion on lacrosse and rifle-shooting. The issue of ‘men and guns’ in Australia is a topic demanding attention: what is the Australian history of rifle clubs, sporting shooters, kangaroo hunts and what are the links between sport, the volunteers and civil defence groups?

Barracker’s Comer makes a welcome return after some issues with two forthright critics. Barracker’s Comer is open to any disgruntled author or anyone who has an ‘axe to grind’ which can be conveyed in 1000 words or less. More substantial author ‘rebuttals’ can appear in other parts of the journal (such as the Morgan vs Booth stoush) and the *Bulletin* is also an available for ‘letting off steam’.

Generally the reactions to the cover have been favourable and the journal will continue to feature a cover which is related to one of the articles published. The caption to the illustration to this issue appears on

the back of the cover page. Because some people did not like the lime green cover a more muted green has been selected for this issue. Reactions are welcome and even the occasional brickbat will be tolerated — it is your journal.

Richard Cashman
School of History
University of New South Wales