



**New South Wales Rugby League
Referees' Association Inc.**

**89TH
ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1996**

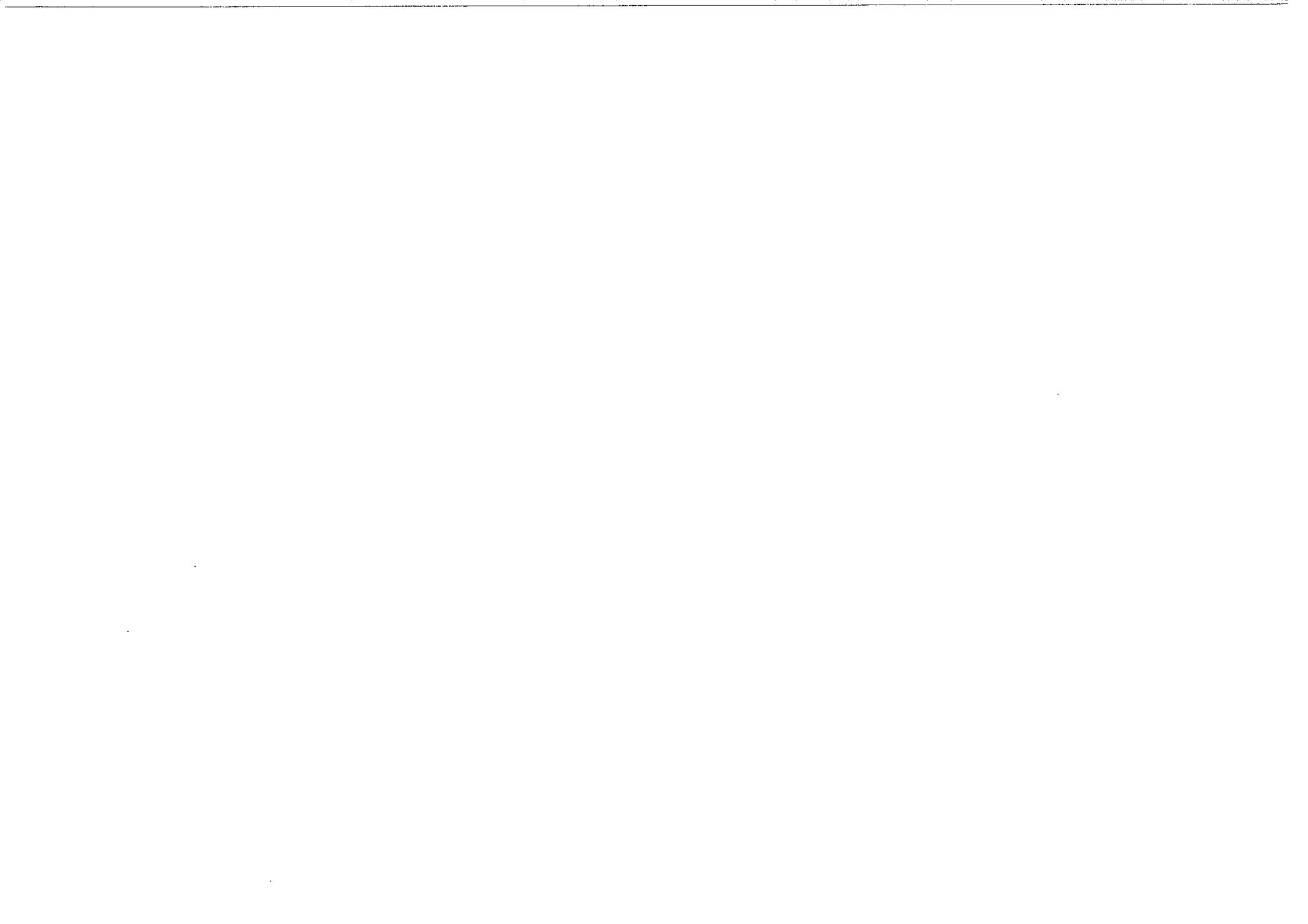
**President
I. McCall**

**Secretary
L. Matthews**

**Treasurer
P. Filmer**



ANSETT AUSTRALIA



**NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY LEAGUE
REFEREES' ASSOCIATION INC.**

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

Patron:

President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Deputy Chairman:

Assistant Secretary:

Delegate to N.S.W.R.L. Ltd.:

Deputy Delegate to N.S.W.R.L. Ltd.:

Social Secretary:

Sponsorship Co-ordinator:

Committee:

Sponsorship Committee:

Social Committee:

George & Amy Hansen Memorial Trophy Committee:

Seminar Committee:

Auditors:

**NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY LEAGUE
REFEREES' ASSOCIATION INC.**

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POSITIONS HELD BY MEMBERS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN R.L. LTD & N.S.W. RUGBY LEAGUE LTD.

A.R.L. BOARD & N.S.W.R.L. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. T. Bellew O.A.M.

VICE PRESIDENTS

Messrs E. Cox and R. O'Donnell

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Messrs L. Matthews and D. Wintin

OPTUS CUP REFEREES COACHING CO-ORDINATOR

Mr M. Stone

REFEREES ADVISORY BOARD

Messrs N. Bissett, B. Bolton, J. Connor, M. Dunn, M. Edwards, P. Eliss, P. Filmer, J. Gocher, J. Griffiths, K. Jeffes, I. McCall, R. Pearce, K. Roberts, M. Ryan, P. Ryan, D. Spagarino, M. Stone, M. Tomsett, D. Wintin, J. Yard.

EXAMINATION BOARD

Mr. J. Harris

CHAIRMAN INTER-DISTRICT JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT BOARD

Mr L. Matthews

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN (REFEREEING) COMMITTEE

Messrs I. McCall and L. Matthews

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN (REFEREEING) REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS

Messrs J. Harris, B. Ruttle, P. Stuart.

COACHING COUNCIL

Mr K. Holman O.B.E.

METROPOLITAN CUP COMMITTEE

Mr T. Bellew O.A.M.

DIRECTOR OF THE N.S.W. LEAGUES CLUB

Mr E. Cox

LIAISON OPERATIONS OFFICER

Mr E. Cox

1996 OPTUS CUP 1st GRADE REFEREES

R. Alexander	M. Lewis	M. Oaten
N. Almond	T. Kelly	I. Parnaby
S. Hampstead	T. Maksoud	P. Simpkins
M. Hewitt	D. Manson	E. Ward
K. Jeffes	P. McBlane	G. West

INTER-DISTRICT JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE FINALS

Harold Matthews Cup	Referee	Touch Judges	
	J. O'Brien	M. Cafarelli	J. Paolini
S.G. Ball Cup	Referee	Touch Judges	
	S. Boag	L. Penfold	S. Todd
Jersey Flegg Cup	Referee	Touch Judges	
	D. Andrews	M. Cafarelli	D. Alchin
President's Cup	Referee	Touch Judges	
	J. O'Brien	M. Cafarelli	D. Alchin

NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION INC.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in the Parramatta Leagues Club, O'Connell Street Parramatta on Sunday, 1st December 1996, commencing at 11.00am. You are cordially invited to attend.

The Order of Business will be:-

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
2. Correspondence
3. Secretary's Report
4. Financial Statement and Auditor's Report
5. Election of Office Bearers
6. Other Elections
7. Notice of Motion
8. Committee Recommendations
9. Life Membership Recommendations
10. General Business

Les Matthews
Hon. Secretary
8 Harrison Street
ASHCROFT 2168
Ph: (H) (02) 9826 0971
(F) (02) 9607 2199

NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION INC.

OFFICE BEARERS – SEASON 1996

Patron: Mr. K. Jeffes

President: Mr. I. McCall

Secretary: Mr. L. Matthews

Treasurer: Mr. P. Filmer

Deputy Chairman: Mr. J. Gocher

Assistant Secretary: Mr. M. Ryan

Delegate to N.S.W.R.L.: Mr. D. Wintin

Deputy Delegate to N.S.W.R.L.: Mr. P. Longhurst

Social Secretary: Mr. B. Ruttle

Sponsorship Co-ordinator: Mr. R. Styles

Committee of Management:

Messrs. I. McCall, L. Matthews, P. Filmer, J. Gocher, D. Wintin, B. Ruttle,
R. Styles, P. Cooley and K. Roberts

Sponsorship Committee:

Messrs. I. McCall, L. Matthews, P. Filmer, R. Styles, P. Cooley and B. Gilchrist

Social Committee:

Messrs. S. Betts and P. Kelly

Hansen Memorial Trophy Committee:

Messrs. I. McCall, L. Matthews, P. Filmer, M. Ryan, B. Ruttle, P. Cooley,
D. Spagarino, P. Ryan and D. Wintin

Seminar Committee:

Messrs. I. McCall, L. Matthews, P. Filmer, B. Styles,
M. Ryan and G. Gilchrist

Auditors: Messrs. J. Gocher and P. Longhurst

Sponsorship Liaison Officer: Mr. L. Plowes

REFEREE & TOUCH JUDGE APPOINTMENTS 1996

OPTUS CUP GRAND FINALS

1st Grade

MANLY-WARRINGAH V ST. GEORGE

Referee

D. Manson

Touch Judges

P. Cooley C. White

In-Goal Judges

B. Mathews B. Ruttle

Reserve Grade

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND V AUCKLAND

Referee

K. Jeffes

Touch Judge

M. Weekes S. Betts

In-Goal Judges

D. O'Keefe P. Kalina

Standby -1st Grade

Referee

E. Ward

Touch Judge

B. Gilchrist

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS 1996

Australia v Fiji (Newcastle)

Referee

D. Manson

Touch Judges

T. Danks C. Jones

In-Goal Judges

A. Farlow P. Hewitt

Australia V Papua New-Guinea (Port Morseby)

Referee

K. Jeffes

Exhibition 1st Grade Fixture Manly V Sydney City (Japan)

Referees

K. Jeffes
P. Simpkins

Touch Judges

S. Betts C. White

REFEREE & TOUCH JUDGE APPOINTMENTS 1996

2nd SYDNEY

Referee	D.Manson	Touch Judges	B.Bonnie	L.Edney
		In-Goal Judges	B.Ruttle	B.Mathews

3rd BRISBANE

Referee	D.Manson	Touch Judges	C.White	R.Brown
		In-Goal Judges	W.Logan	W.Wool

METROPOLITAN CUP GRAND FINALS 1996

NEWTOWN V RYDE-EASTWOOD 1ST GRADE

Referee	D.JAY	Touch Judges	W.Logan	M.Ryan
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ILLAWARRA V RYDE EASTWOOD RES. GRADE

Referee	R.Lawrence	Touch Judges	O.Smith	P.Digby
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COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP FINAL

John Paul 11 College V Erindale College

Referee	R.Flint	Touch Judges	J.Melville	J.Belgre
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N.S.W COMBINED HIGH SCHOOLS FINALS

University Shield

Referee	P.Simpkins	Touch Judges	J.Melville	J.Belgre
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Buckley Shield

Referee	M.Lewis	Touch Judges	P.Macinante	S.Villa
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NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION INC.

PATRON'S REPORT

The 1996 season witnessed a troubled commencement with Super League aligned clubs deciding not to compete in the A.R.L competition but after the first round re-entered the playing field and so as time went by the competition became a very entertaining one, with the culmination of the Final Series being of a very high standard, equal to any such series in the past.

This year for the Association has at times been quite frustrating, mainly the loss of our major Sponsor TNT, but the light did shine at the end of the tunnel when at the latter part of the season FAI, became our major Sponsor and so due to the high standard of the efforts by our Executive and their Committees we ended 1996 on a more than happy note.

On the active refereeing scene the standard has been very pleasing, and we witnessed former Junior Representative members forcing their way into the Reserve and First Grade ranks which is promising for the future. David Manson is to be congratulated on becoming El Supremo, First Grade Optus Cup Grand Final, three State of Origin games and Australia V Fiji Test match.

Congratulations to all active members for your performances throughout the season.

What the future holds in store for Rugby League as we know it only time will tell, we can only hope that eventually common sense will prevail and the game will benefit.

It has been an honour to serve as your Patron, to all members and your families a Happy Christmas and a Happy 1997.

KEVIN JEFFES
Patron

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen,

The highlight of the 1996 season for our Association was without doubt the signing of a three year major sponsorship agreement with the FAI Insurance Group. In doing so, FAI has made a clear manifestation of its Faith in the future of our Association. We will match this faith with loyalty in such a manner that a strong bond of friendship will develop between the two organisation leading ultimately to a mutually profitable long term partnership.

Whilst we look to a financially secure future through the support of FAI and our associate sponsor Ansett, we should acknowledge the contribution to rugby league refereeing of our former sponsor TNT. In particular to Lindsay Plowes for his unqualified support over the years.

Throughout the season the on-field performances of referees and touch judges at all levels was of an exceptionally high standard. This without doubt was a consequence of the ability and commitment of the active members ably supported by the coaches and advisory board.

Congratulations to all involved and in particular to those referees, touch judges and in-goal judges that received representative, State of Origin, International and Final series appointments. I would like to make special mention of the achievements of David Manson. David officiated as the centre referee in all three State of Origin fixtures, the Fiji v Australia International and the Optus Cup First Grade Grand Final, a unique set of honours in a single season.

Congratulations are extended to those members who were honoured during the year for deeds that extended beyond the Rugby League playing field. In particular, to Ian Parnaby on his elevation to Life Membership of the Association and to Joe Griffiths on being awarded the Hansen Memorial Achievement Trophy for service to the Association.

The Australian and the New South Wales Rugby League continued to support and assist throughout the season. The Association appreciates the contribution made by Ken Arthurson, John Quayle, Brad Levy, Michael Stone and other League staff. In particular, the Association appreciated the financial support given by the League when the TNT sponsorship was terminated as well as the assistance in obtaining the FAI sponsorship.

Our social events were well conducted and generally well patronised. Barry Ruttle and his Social Committee members Steve Betts and Peter Kelly are to be congratulated on their endeavours in maintaining the friendship and harmony amongst members that has existed over many years.

To my fellow Executive Committee members and other Office Bearers of the Association I extend my personal thanks for the cooperation and support given throughout the season. Once again it has been a privilege to serve as your President, for this honour I thank each and every member.

IAN McCALL
Chairman

REFEREE & TOUCH JUDGE APPOINTMENTS 1996

SYDNEY ORIGIN V COUNTRY ORIGIN

Referee

P.McBlane

Touch Judges

L.Edney B.Foran(Orange)

In-Goal Judges

B.Mathews M.Dupille(I'warra)

SYDNEY METROPOLITAN CUP V N.S.W. COUNTRY FIRSTS

Referee

R.Inskip(Bega)

Touch Judges

J.Belgre J.Francis (Parkes)

CITY U/19 V COUNTRY U/19

Referee

P.Simpkins

Touch Judges

P.Macinante J.Melville

CITY U/17 V COUNTRY U/17

Referee

K.Menchin(C/Coast)

Touch Judges

A.James(W/gong) A.Foster(M/gong)

N.S.W.U/19 V QUEENSLAND U/19

Referee

S.Hampstead

Touch Judges

S.Villa P.Kalina

N.S.W U/17 V VICTORIA U/17

Referee

G.Henderson

Touch Judges

T.Healy S.Lyons

STATE OF ORIGIN N.S.W V QUEENSLAND

1st BRISBANE

Referee

D.Manson

Touch Judges

M.Howell M.O'Malley

In-Goal Judges

S.Portsmouth P.Murray

**GEORGE & AMY HANSEN MEMORIAL TROPHY
RECIPIENTS**

1975	F. O. Cohen	1983	C. Gilchrist	1991	P. Cooley
1976	C. E. Wigzell	1984	P. Longhurst	1992	R. Styles
1977	F. W. Walsh	1985	B. Wiseman	1993	K. Jeffes Snr
1978	A. Shiner	1986	L. Matthews	1994	T. Danks
1979	D. Wintin	1987	L. Williams	1995	B. Gilchrist
1980	J. Gocher	1988	M. Ryan	1996	J. Griffiths
1981	D. Braybrook	1989	M. Stone		
1982	I. McCall	1990	I. Parnaby		

FRANK WALSH MEMORIAL TROPHY

Year	Recipient	District Association
1990	Michael Lewis	Parramatta
1991	Sean Fielder	South Sydney
1992	Craig Tracey	Eastern Suburbs
1993	Darren Gocher	Cronulla-Sutherland
1994	Brett Lynch	Penrith
1995	Rod Lawrence	South Sydney
1996	Jason O'Brien	South Sydney

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr Chairman and Members,

It is with pleasure that I submit for your perusal and subsequent adoption, the 88th Annual Report and Financial Statement for the season 1996.

We look back to December 1995 and congratulate our President Ian McCall on obtaining Life Membership of the NSW Rugby League Ltd.

The Association is very grateful to the NSW Rugby League for their financial commitment to us after the loss of the TNT sponsorship and for their support in securing the FAI sponsorship along with Ian McCall.

To FAI welcome, I along with all members hope it is a long and rewarding sponsorship to both parties.

Prior to the commencement of the 1996 season we saw the retirement from the grade ranks of Peter Filmer & Craig Tracey, we wish them well in their retirement and thank them for their efforts on behalf of the Association.

Trevor Davies looked after the fitness of the Sydney based Optus Cup and Inter-District Junior Representative Squad referees, Noel Bissett (Canberra), David Holleran (Brisbane) and Bill Gray (Newcastle) were appointed to look after the fitness of the Graded and Junior Representative Cup referees in their areas.

Members of your Executive and members of the Association visited many affiliated Associations, Inter-State & Country Associations during the season and as always were well received, naturally this is building up good relations within the Refereeing ranks.

The Association nominated Denis Spagarino and Kevin Roberts as Referees' coaches with Max Tomsett and Ian McCall as Touch Judge coaches to assist Michael Stone with the skills coaching and appointments of the Optus Cup Referees.

Peter Filmer, Kevin Jeffes (Referees Coaches) and Michael Ryan (Touch Judge Coach) looked after the coaching, development and appointments of the Inter-District Junior Representative Squad.

The All Schools Carnival was held in the South Sydney district this year. Barry Ruttle on behalf of the Association arranged dinner and drinks for the country referee's on the Monday evening at South Sydney Juniors Leagues Club, a good evening was had by all that attended.

The Life Members Presentation and Ladies night was held at the Concord Function Centre, an enjoyable evening was had by all who attended.

The Executive entertained forty one senior members of the Association at the Appreciation Dinner held at the Sydney Football Stadium and an enjoyable afternoon was had by all. Our thanks to Barry Ruttle for organising the day and the N.S.W. Rugby League for supplying complimentary tickets for the members to attend the Quarter Final fixtures of the Qantas Finals Series played on the day.

The Life Members Reunion Dinner was an outstanding success. To all members, delegates and guests that attended, thank you for participation in making it such an enjoyable evening for the Life Members and invited guests. Special thanks to Paul Yu and his staff for the catering at this function.

To Barry Ruttle (Social Secretary), Peter Kelly and Steve Betts thank you for your efforts with social functions during the year.

SPONSORSHIP

The best news on Sponsorship came late in the year when FAI entered into a three year agreement with the Association to become our major Sponsor. To Lois Burns Advertising Manager with FAI, thank you for your involvement and we look forward to a long and continuing association.

The end of season 1995 saw the completion of the TNT sponsorship with the Association. Ian McCall and Lindsay Plowes put a lot of hours in trying to secure a new contract with TNT but to no avail. On behalf of all members I thank TNT for sponsoring the Association. The Association thanks Lindsay Plowes for all his assistance over the 18 years of this sponsorship.

To Ansett Australia as Sleeve Sponsor for 1996 thank you for your support. This Sponsorship agreement has a further 2 years run.

Classic Sportswear became our new uniform supplier and minor sponsor, we welcome them on board.

The Association thanks all our sponsors for their support in 1996 and look forward to you continue your involvement with the Association in 1997 and beyond.

To Bob Styles (Sponsorship Co-ordinator) and his committee, Phil Cooley and Bryan Gilchrist, thank you for your efforts throughout a difficult year.

CONGRATULATIONS

To David Manson on being appointed to his initial 1st Grade Optus Cup Grand

Final after which he was presented with the N.S.W. Rugby League Referees Association Commemorative Trophy by the Prime Minister Mr John Howard. This is the second occasion this trophy has travelled interstate.

To the Australian Rugby League on their foresight with the introduction of the eight team Qantas Cup Finals Series.

To David Manson and Kelvin Jeffes on their Test match appointments.

To David Manson on his appointment to the three (3) State of Origin Fixtures.

To Sean Hampstead, Matt Hewitt and Paul Simpkins on their initial Optus Cup 1st Grade appointments.

To Col White, Phil Cooley (Touch Judges), Brett Mathews and Barry Ruttle (In-Goal Judges) on their appointment to the Optus Cup 1st Grade Grand Final.

To Canterbury Bankstown Referees' Association on reaching their 75th Anniversary, Parramatta Referees Association on their 50th Anniversary and Public Service Referees Association on their 25th Anniversary.

Congratulations to all members appointed to Representative Fixtures during the season, also to those taking part in Qantas Finals Series and Metropolitan Cup Finals series in 1996, you carried out your appointments with great credit to the Australian & N.S.W. Rugby League and to your Association.

To Tom Bellew, John Coates and the clubs involved with the successful running of the Metropolitan Cup Competition, congratulations on the exceptionally high standard of Rugby League played.

To the Manly-Warringah Club for winning the 1st Grade Optus Cup Grand Final, also to the Cronulla-Sutherland Club on

REFEREES' ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED WITH N.S.W.R.L. REFEREES' ASSOCIATION INC. DELEGATES ATTENDANCES 1996 6 Meetings Held

BALMAIN	L. Bugden	3	S. Todd	5
CANBERRA	N. Bissett	4		
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN	S. Issa	5	J. Tamine	3
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND	L. Penfold	4		
GOLD COAST (GROUP 18)	M. Ryan	6		
ILLAWARRA	B. Bonnie	6		
MANLY-WARRINGAH	G. Diews	2		
NORFOLK ISLAND	L. Matthews	5		
NEWCASTLE	P. Digby	5		
N.S.W. COUNTRY	K. Riolo	1	N. Best	1
NORTHERN TERRITORY	D. Wintin	5		
NORTH SYDNEY	S. Watson	5		
PARRAMATTA	W. Howarth	6		
PENRITH	R. Turner	6	G. Jankowski	5
PUBLIC SERVICE	D. Jay	3		
QUEENSLAND	B. Logan	1		
ST GEORGE	S. Boag	2		
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	L. Luke	-		
SOUTH SYDNEY	J. Butler	4	R. Williams	1
UNIVERSITY CUP	P. Deprez	-		
VICTORIA	S. Todd	5		
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	B. Gately	5		
WESTERN SUBURBS	M. Ward	3		
VISITORS GROUP 9	D. Myers	1		
	V. Pitt	3		

HONOURARY MEMBERS 1996 AND ATTENDANCE

6 Meetings Held

A. Aggett	-	B. Goldsworthy	-	D. McLean	1
K. Allard	-	K. Gray	-	P. McMahon	-
B. Apps	-	B. Grech	-	P. Moon	-
B. Barnes	-	J. Griffith	6	R. Morris	-
M. Beacroft	-	G. Haines	-	G. O'Donnell	-
M. Bilton	-	L. Harrigan	-	M. O'Neill	-
N. Bissett	4	C. Haynes	-	R. Pearce	4
J. Blomfield	-	G. Heaton	-	B. Pearson	-
P. Bowen	-	G. Hedger	-	A. Perry	-
R. Bowman	-	R. Hensley	-	R. Picard	-
D. Bowron	-	G. Herd	-	M. Presland	-
R. Carey	-	K. Holman, M.B.E.	-	L. Randle	-
S. Carrall	2	K. Holwell	-	B. Reedy	-
M. Cassidy	-	R. Humphreys	-	A. See	-
N. Cislowski	-	B. Hunt	-	A. Sercombe	-
S. Clark	1	B. Keenahan	-	R. Sinclair	-
A. Cole	-	G. Kellahan	-	I. Smith	-
G. Cook	-	B. Kendall	-	J. Snare	-
B. Cripps	-	R. Kiddle	-	D. Spagarino	6
B. Cross	-	C. Law	-	P. Stuart	-
J. Dansey	-	S. Laws	-	M. Taylor	-
K. Davis	-	G. Lee	-	J. Turner	-
T. Delauney	-	N. Maher	-	L. Turner	1
C. Dimon	-	T. Mander	-	B. Wales	-
M. Dunn	4	K. Manton	-	R. Warner	-
M. Edwards	2	G. McCallum	-	J. Whybrow	-
G. Elias	-	G. McGilvray	-	R. Williams	-
P. Fitton	1	V. McGuinness	-	S. Williams	-
P. Freeman	-	B. McIntosh	-	A. Willis	-
R. Freeman	-	R. McJannett	1	J. Yard	1

HONOURARY ASSOCIATE MEMBERS FOR LIFE

6 Meetings Held

J. R. Drewes	D	H. Gillard	D	L. Plowes	5
W. Fallowfield O.B.E.	D	P. Goener	-	K. Gardner	D
W. Petley D.F.C.C.deG	D				

winning the 2nd Grade Optus Cup Grand Final.

To the South Queensland Crushers on their win in the Presidents Cup.

To the Newtown Club on winning the 1st Grade Motorola Metropolitan Cup Grand Final and to the Illawarra Club on winning the 2nd Grade Motorola Metropolitan Cup Grand Final.

HONOURS

Life Membership honours were bestowed on Ian Parnaby for his outstanding service to the Association. His Life Membership blazer was presented to him at the Presentation Dinner by President Ian McCall held at the Concord Function Centre.

The George and Amy Hansen Memorial Trophy was awarded to a very surprised Joe Griffiths for his efforts on behalf of the Association over the past twelve months, well done Joe.

The Frank Walsh Memorial Trophy recipient this year was Jason O'Brien. This trophy is awarded annually to the referee who is appointed to the highest Inter District Cup Final. Jason came into the squad from the South Sydney District Referee Association.

THANKS

To Ken Arthurson A.M., John Quayle, Geoff Carr, Gwen Ford, Greg Mitchell, Chris Turner, John Coates, Brad Levy and Martin Meredith, thank you for your support and assistance throughout the year.

To Peter Corcoran on his achievements with the National Strategic Plan for Referees, also to Nick Euclid, Nick Best, Ian McCall, Richard Johnson, Kevin Riolo, thank you for your input into this project.

To Michael Stone thank you for your support during the year, a job very well done as the Optus Cup Referees' Coaching Co-ordinator throughout a year of turmoil and constant pressure.

To our Fitness Trainer, Trevor Davies and his staff thank you for your support and enthusiasm during a long season, all members would like to thank you on a job well done.

To Mickey Braithwaite, Jo Lennon and the staff of the N.S.W. Rugby League Ltd thank you for your assistance and courtesies extended to the Association during the year.

To Chris Bowden and the Board of Directors of the N.S.W. Leagues Club, Paul Yu and his staff thank you for your assistance and catering for our meetings and functions throughout 1996.

To all District Associations, Country Referees Associations and Inter-State Referees Associations who entertained our representatives during the year.

To the Executive Officers of affiliated Referees Associations, thank you for your support throughout the year.

To all Regional Co-ordinators, District Association coaches (lectures) and Examiners thank you for the time and effort put in by you in the recruitment of future referees.

To Lisa Black Western Suburbs Leagues Club (Ashfield) for your assistance in organising accommodation for Advisory Board and Committee meetings.

To the Masseurs, John Burke, Bob Chilvers, Grant Clark (N.Z.), Larry Etcell, Frank Fletcher, Joanne Fielding (Qld), Bill Gray, John Griffith, Sam Morgan (Qld.), Alf Richards, Graham Richards, Keith Rogers, Corey Ruttle, Micheal Smith, Rena Sodhi (Qld), Shane Staunton, Don Stuart,

Michael Treloar (W.A), Peter Van Dijk, and Les Williamson (A.C.T) thank you all for your efforts throughout the year.

A special thanks to John Burke for his ten years of outstanding service to this Association. A presentation was made to John at the Life Members Reunion Dinner by President Ian McCall, well done John.

VALE

Season 1995 saw the passing of two Life Members:

John Farrelly
Graded 1963 to 1979
Retired from Grade end of season 1979
Management Committee 1973 to 1979
Social Committee Member 1968 to 1978
Referees Coaching Division 1975 to 1989
Uniform Committee Member 1976
Finance Committee Member 1977, 1978
George & Amy Hansen Memorial
Committee Member 1977, 1978
Fees Committee Member 1978, 1979
Elected Life Member of NSW RLRA. in
1977
Referees Coaching Division 1975 to 1979
Referees Coaching Class 1982 to 1995
Referees Examination Board, 1987 to
1995
Refereed 1st Grand Final Second Division
1967
Touch Judge Australia V Great Britain 1st
Test 1979
Touch Judge 1st Grade Grand Final 1979
Touch Judge Amco Cup Final 1979
Total Membership 33 Years
Passed away on the 29-11-95

Eddie Payne
Graded 1933 to 1942, 1944, 1946 to
1950
Honourary Member 1943, 1945
Retired as active referee 1950
Committee 1942 to 1945, 1950

Elected Life Member of NSW RLRA. in
1948
Total Membership 63 Years
Passed away on the 1-1-96

To members who suffered bereavement
during the year in their families, the
Committee on behalf of all members
offers sincere condolences.

The General Committee of the NSW
Rugby League met once during the year,
however there were no issues raised
which affected the Association, for this
reason there is no report from the
Delegate.

On behalf of all members and personally,
I thank Ian McCall for the hours spent
negotiating financial assistance from the
NSW Rugby League after we lost TNT
Sponsorship. To all Committee members
thank you for your valuable assistance
during the year.

Finally, I must thank Michael Ryan the
assistant secretary for his effort during the
year in making my position as secretary
much easier. To Beverly Matthews,
Madeleine McCall and Julie Ryan a special
thanks for your support of your husbands,
far beyond the call of duty, taking
telephone message all hours of the day
and night

In conclusion, I wish to thank all members
for their support during the season and it
has been a pleasure once again to serve
you as secretary.

LES MATTHEWS
Secretary

GRADED REFEREES 1996 AND ATTENDANCE

6 Meetings Held

D. Abood	6	T. Healy	6	J. McCormack	4
R. Alexander	1	G. Henderson	3	I. McIntosh	1
N. Almond	1	M. Hewitt	3	C. McPherson	1
A. Archer	3	P. Hewitt	3	J. Melville	4
P. Battin	4	M. Hoffmann	6	P. Murray	1
J. Belgre	6	P. Houston	1	K. Neale	1
S. Betts	6	M. Howell	6	M. Oaten	1
B. Bonnie	6	M. Jadwat	6	D. O'Keefe	4
D. Brooks	4	D. Jay	3	M. O'Malley	6
R. Brown	6	K. Jeffes	6	I. Parnaby	6
P. Bungate	4	C. Jones	6	T. Peet	6
T. Butler	1	P. Kalina	5	S. Portsmouth	6
A. Caddy	1	P. Kelly	4	K. Russell	6
M. Cecchin	2	T. Kelly	1	B. Ruttle	6
S. Clapson	4	R. Lawrence	4	M. Ryan	2
W. Close	1	F. Leonard	6	P. Simpkins	6
P. Cooley	6	M. Lewis	6	D. Smith	3
T. Danks	4	R. Lewis	4	D. Sproule	2
P. Digby	5	B. Logan	1	B. Stone	1
P. Duncan	6	W. Loveday	6	D. Turvey	5
L. Edney	6	B. Lynch	6	S. Villa	2
A. Farlow	6	S. Lyons	3	E. Ward	2
P. Field	6	P. Macinante	6	P. Watkins	1
S. Fielder	2	K. Mahon	1	M. Weekes	1
R. Fielding	1	T. Maksoud	1	G. West	6
B. Flint	5	D. Manson	1	C. White	4
B. Gilchrist	6	B. Mathews	4	W. Wool	1
S. Hampstead	6	P. McBlane	6		

NO NEW MEMBERS

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ROLL 1996 AND ATTENDANCE

6 Meetings Held

K. Arnold	-	J. Farquhar	D	W. Neill	D
L. Baggott	D	J. Farrelly	D**	A. Neville	-
A. Ballerum	D	A. Farrow	D	J. O'Brien	D
B. Barry	-	A. Fifield	D	R. O'Donnell	-
J. Bates	D	P. Filmer	4	J. O'Sullivan	6
T. Bellew O.A.M.	-	E. Fletcher	D	A. Oxford	-
G. Benson	-	W. Fry	D	K. Page	D
G. Bishop	D	B. Garwood	2	E. Paine	D**
J. Black	D	B. Gately	5	I. Parnaby	6
B. Bolton	-	C. Gilchrist	D	C. Pearce	-
G. Boyd	D	J. Gocher	6	G. Pearce	D
D. Bratton	D	M. Godfrey	-	H. Pierce	-
D. Braybrook	D	T. Grew	D	H. Poulton	D
T. Brennan	D	G. Griffin	D	K. Roberts	5
R. Brock	D	J. Griffin	D	L. Rosen	D
C. Brown	-	B. Hall	D	H. Rowlands	D
L. Bruyeres	1	J. Hansen	D	M. Ryan	6
J. Buchanan	D	J. Harris O.A.M.	3	P. Ryan	3
E. Buckley	D	A. Holt	-	L. Samuelson	-
S. Carey	D	C. Hudson	3	C. Schomberg	-
J. Clarke	D	K. Jeffes	6	D. Schutema	D
N. Clement	-	J. Jewell	D	A. Shiner O.A.M.	D
O. Cohen	D	J. Kelly	D	A. Shipway	D
J. Colenso	D	J. Kelly	1	R. Smyth	-
A. Collins	D	B. Kelly	D	A. Soane	D
J. Connor	1	K. Keough	D	A. Spankie	D
P. Cooley	6	E. Kerr	D	M. Stone	4
T. Costello	D	A. Konnecke	-	B. Styles	4
B. Cowley	D	D. Lawler	D	B. Tinsely	-
E. Cox	-	P. Lee	D	M. Tomsett	4
B. Cuke	-	T. Leffer	-	C. Turnell	1
R. Cummins	-	P. Longhurst	2	J. Turner	D
J. Davies	D	D. Macdonald	D	B. Wales Snr	D
A. Davis	D	M. Maloney	D	F. Walsh	D
L. Deane	D	J. Martin	D	C. Ward	-
F. Delaney	D	L. Matthews	5	R. Ward	D
A. Dennis	D	I. McCall	5	A. Welsh	D
W. Devine Snr	D	J. McGauley	D	C. Wigzell B.E.M.	D
R. Dick	D	T. McMahon	D	L. Williams	-
T. Dickenson	D	H. Millington	D	D. Wintin	5
R. Drake	D	J. Montgomery	-	G. Wirth	D
H. Elliott	D	J. Moses B.E.M.	D	B. Wiseman	-
P. Elliss	-	T. Murphy	-	C. Yorke	D
F. Erickson	-	J. Murray	D		

**Passed away since November 1995

TREASURER'S REPORT

I have stated many times since being elected as Treasurer of the Association that the very existence of our organisation is dependant upon many factors not least of which is the provision of a sound financial base.

The history of the Association is dotted with periods of uncertainty and perhaps to some degree turmoil, however our finest hour has surely been witnessed in 1996. Despite the uncertain start and no sponsor we have survived. We did that, at least fiscally for two main reasons. Firstly a committee that was conscious of the need for strict financial management, Secondly our foundations, monetarily were very strong and could endure what was thrown our way. It would be most remiss if I did not thank the NSW Rugby League for it's support during this time of crisis.

So, enough of the past and we move to a brighter future. The acquisition of FAI Insurance as our Sponsor for the next three seasons has been a major coup in these uncertain times. This gives the Association security for the future and allows a continuance of the various developmental programs which are so necessary.

The financial statements which form the other part of this report have been prepared without variance to the methods adopted in the past. I would encourage all members to read these documents which do reflect a most positive outcome.

PETER FILMER
Treasurer

NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION INC.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS STATEMENT

1st October 1995 - 30th September 1996

BALANCE FORWARD 30/9/95		\$4,257.97
Plus Receipts		
Sponsorship Grant	40,000.00	
Active Referee Expenses	71,136.23	
Fee Deduction	22,082.00	
Ticket Receipts	11,150.00	
Sponsorship FAI	50,000.00	
Non Active Membership	236.00	
Affiliation	160.00	
Social	2,011.00	
Investment Transfer	15,000.00	
Fees	16,465.00	
Interest _ Current A/c	131.71	
Sundries	735.94	
		<u>\$229,107.88</u>
		\$233,365.85

LESS PAYMENTS

Social	25,366.96	
Telephone	5,689.39	
Postage	918.35	
Admin. Expenses	8,903.10	
Stationery	277.42	
Printing	5,942.00	
Floral tributes	405.00	
Active Ref Expenses	71,136.23	
Fees	16,090.00	
Tickets	7,500.00	
Advertising	107.10	
Bank Charges	419.21	
Legal Fees	770.00	
Equipment Repairs	1,058.00	
Insurances	6,957.53	
Courier charges	274.00	
Honourarium	6,005.00	
		<u>\$157,819.29</u>
		\$75,546.56

LIFE MEMBER FOR 1996 RECORD OF SERVICE

Ian Parnaby – Graded 1984 to 1995
Total Membership 12 years

1984	8 (10)	1988	6 (7)	1992	8 (8)
1985	8 (8)	1989	7 (7)	1993	8 (8)
1986	9 (9)	1990	4 (7)	1994	3 (4)
1987	7 (8)	1991	8 (8)	1995	3 (4)

Seminar Committee Member 1991, 1992

Referees Examination Board Member 1991 to 1993

Responsible for the Publication and up-dating of the following books:-

Explanatory notes on the Laws of Mini-Footy & Mod League

Kicking of in Rugby League Refereeing

On behalf of Kevin Jeffes, Peter Filmer and myself I would like to thank all members of the squad for their co-operation and the courtesy extended to us and we look forward to working with you next season. I would also like to thank Les Matthews for his guidance, patience and conciliatory skills displayed at Appointment Board Meetings. Thanks also to Martin Meredith and John Coates from the NSW Rugby League Academy for their valued assistance during the season.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank the NSW Rugby League Referees' Association for without its support and financial assistance the Junior Representative Referees Squad could not operate.

Michael Ryan
for and on behalf of the Coaching Panel.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee of the Association makes the following recommendations for 1997, to be considered at the Annual General Meeting.

1. That Honourary members shall pay a Membership Subscription of five dollars (\$5.00) or one dollars (\$1.00) for a Pensioner.
2. That Affiliated Associations shall pay an Affiliation Subscription of ten dollars (\$10.00).
3. That in 1997 the Association will hold five (5) General Meetings commencing at 7.45 pm to be held at the N.S.W. Leagues Club on the following dates:
12th February
2nd April
21st May
9th July
27th August

LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS FOR 1997

The following members were nominated for Life membership of the Association and the Committee's recommendation will be announced at the Annual General Meeting where a copy of successful nominees records will be distributed.

Messrs Steve Betts, Noel Bissett, Max Dunn, Leon Edney, Bryan Gilchrist, Michael Howell, Col Jones, Ron Pearce, Kevin Russell, Denis Spagarino, Martin Weekes, Graeme West and Col White.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Sponsor. Grant	40,000.00	Social	23,355.95
Fee Deduction	22,082.00	Postage	918.35
Non Active Membership	236.00	Admin Expenses	8,903.10
Affiliation	160.00	Floral Tributes	405.00
Interest - Investment A/c	120.12	Telephone	5,190.45
- Current A/c	131.71	Bank Changes	
Stale Cheques W/Back	205.00	- Investment Account	9.06
Tickets	3,650.00	- General Account	419.21
Fees	375.00	Printing	5,942.00
Sponsor. FAI Insurance	50,000.00	Advertising	107.10
		Legal Expenses	755.00
		Stationary	260.42
		Equipment Repair	1,058.00
		Courier Fees	274.00
		Insurance	6,957.53
		Honourarium	6,005.00
		Depreciation	156.00
		Excess Income/Expenditure	56,243.65
Total	116,959.83	Total	116,959.83

BALANCE SHEET

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
Capital Account 1/10/95	20,521.98	Current A/c 30/9/96	25,546.56
Add Operating Surplus 30/9/96	977.07		→ 977.07
1/10/95 - 30/09/96	56,243.65	FAI Sponsorship A/c 30/9/96	50,000.00
		Fixed Assets	
		- Printer	554.00
		- Accum Depreciation	312.00
			242.00
	76,765.63		76,765.63

AUDITOR'S REPORT

This is to certify that we have examined the books of account and Sponsorship records of the N.S.W. Rugby League Referees' Association Inc. and in our opinion, they disclose the true and fair view of the state of the Association.

Signed: P. J. LONGHURST
Auditor

Signed: J. M. GOCHER
Auditor

SPONSORSHIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Fellow Members,

The turmoil which has clouded the game of Rugby League for the past twelve months or longer has not made it easy for our Association to operate in a financially stable environment.

However it is pleasing to be able to report that this stability should now return with the recent establishment of a three year sponsorship agreement with FAI Insurance.

This when coupled with the continuing valued support of our "sleeve" sponsor Ansett, should ensure that we are able to again plan our strategies for future development with the confidence that our financial backing is secure.

We have been able to meet the financial commitments associated with our 1996 budget due mainly to the timely assistance provided by the ARL. For this we are very grateful.

This season also saw the introduction of a new "strip" for our referees. The intention of this change was to reduce the number of colours on issue to referees and thus reduce costs. Our new suppliers and minor sponsors, Classic Sportswear were very helpful in this regard.

Coaching of active referees continues to be a very important role played by the Association and once again we have been able to provide the finances necessary to employ a coaching team for both the "Optus Cup" referees and the District Representative Squad.

The Association once again conducted a very successful District Representative Seminar held early in the season at the N.S.W Academy of Sport Narrabeen. District representatives from all affiliated N.S.W Associations along with special visitors from interstate were fortunate enough to attend this informative seminar. This valuable venture was fully funded from sponsorship funds.

As this season sees us, for the first time, responsible for the total disbursement of our funds I feel that it should be necessary to report to members on sponsorship expenditure. In this regard a Statement of Income and Expenditure follows this report for member's perusal.

My thanks are extended to all members of the Sponsorship Committee for their untiring work throughout the year, for their continued efforts tend to make my workload more manageable. In particular, mention should be made of the efforts of Phil Cooley in providing the necessary gear to our referees in, what I am sure Phil would agree, our most difficult year in this area.

Special thanks to the Association Executive and General Committee for their assistance and understanding.

Wishing all members a Happy Christmas and off-season and I look forward to renewing our acquaintance in 1997.

Bob Styles
Sponsorship Co-ordinator

INTER DISTRICT JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE SQUAD REPORT

After a shaky and somewhat uncertain future for Junior Representative football the Junior Representative season kicked off on the 16th March, 1996. In addition to refereeing the Harold Matthews, S G Ball and Jersey Flegg competitions, referees in the Junior Representative squad also controlled President's Cup fixtures. This latter competition ran for a period of twenty two weeks culminating in the Grand Final being played on the same day as the Optus Cup Grand Final at the Sydney Football Stadium. The format of the S G Ball and Jersey Flegg competitions altered whereby games were played over a period of twenty weeks. With an eye to the future the NSW Rugby League invited a team from the Central Coast to participate in the Harold Matthews competition and referees officiating in this competition welcomed the opportunity to referee on the Central Coast.

Participants in all sports have their ups and downs and it is no different in refereeing. The true test of character is the ability of the person to be able to bounce back after suffering adversity and this was an attribute of all members of the 1996 squad. The decisions of the Coaching Staff and Advisory Board were accepted without any argument and where necessary members of the squad went away to digest advice that was given to improve their overall performance as referees.

A first was created this year with the inclusion of two female referees in the squad, Skye Edwards and Jenny Yates. Both ladies made sure they were not to be taken as token additions to the squad with creditable performances as both centre referees and touch judges.

During the season two members of the squad were selected to referee interstate in the National Schoolboy's carnivals. Sean Boag travelled to Perth to referee in the 15 year's Championships and Jason O'Brien travelled to Adelaide to officiate in the Open Championships. Both gentlemen were a credit to themselves, the NSW Referees' Association and the NSW Rugby League and the organisers of both events were most impressed with their on field performances.

Congratulations to all members of the squad on the way you performed during the year but particular mention must be made of the following referees who officiated in finals:-

HAROLD MATTHEWS Referee	Touch Judges
Jason O'Brien	Mario Cafarelli Joe Paolini

S.G.BALL Sean Boag	Luke Penfold Scott Todd
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JERSEY FLEGG Dennis Andrews	Mario Cafarelli Darren Alchin
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PRESIDENT'S CUP Jason O'Brien	Mario Cafarelli Darren Alchin
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Jason O'Brien with his appointment to the Presidents Cup Final was presented with the coveted top junior award the Frank Walsh Memorial Trophy.

The winning clubs in the above grades must also be congratulated, namely South Queensland Crushers (Presidents Cup), St. George (Jersey Flegg), Illawarra (S G Ball & Harold Matthews). The Illawarra Club won the Club Championship.

TRAINING REPORT FROM BRISBANE

1996 again proved a successful year for Brisbane based referees, culminating with Manson's appointment to the ARL Grand Final, David is an inspiration to all referees at training and is always willing to help up and coming referees. David is a true lover of Rugby League and totally professional in his approach to all aspects of the game.

This year saw a particularly wet mid-season, which slowed training down for several weeks, due to extremely slippery conditions, it appears to have been quite beneficial, as fitness results were very good when the track dried out.

This season saw the senior referees given the task of taking training, new voices, new ideas, combined to make a welcome change.

Tony Maksoud again proved he is the fittest referee in Queensland but, is being pushed by up and coming younger referees.

Eddie Ward was again the consummate professional and Peter Murray the fittest touch Judge in Queensland.

With the face of Rugby League ever-changing 1997 will again be a great challenge for all.

DAVID HOLLERAN
Fitness Conditioner (Brisbane)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

As at 31/10/96		Funds available	\$246,355.00
SPONSORSHIP ACCOUNT		Expenditure	
Bank Account Balance	\$24,330.00	Training Expenses	\$19,518.00
(as at 1/11/95)		Coaches Fees	\$26,700.00
Plus		Video Coaching Expenses	\$2,500.00
Grant from ARL	\$150,000.00	Football Gear	\$22,167.00
Ansett Sponsorship	\$70,000.00	Training Gear	\$8,408.00
Interest Received	\$2,025.00	Dress requirements	\$7,866.00
		Sponsors Logos	\$10,591.00
		Rubbers fees & Expenses	\$33,886.00
		Assn. Meeting Expenses	\$5,365.00
		Pre-Season Seminar	\$1,564.00
		District Assn. Grants	\$33,500.00
		Inter District Seminar	\$7,273.00
		National Strategic Plan	\$12,000.00
		Association Travel Expenses	\$2,093.00
		Admin. Grant - NSWRLRA	\$40,000.00
		Fax Machine	\$2,638.00
		Bank Charges	\$369.00
		Other Misc. Expenses	\$2,747.00
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$222,025.00		\$239,185.00
		Funds available as at 31/10/96	\$7,170.00

SPONSORSHIP LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

Gentlemen,

It is with regret that I file this final report pertaining to the TNT sponsorship. After some months of frustrating negotiation, TNT Management withdrew from our long standing sponsorship arrangement.

This came as a great disappointment to me as it not doubt did to the executive and members. After eighteen years continuous relationship it is obvious that the company was most satisfied with the exposure it received. Trading results and culmination of the recent takeover offer possibly contributed to the decision.

The mutual understanding between the Association and TNT was highlighted by the fact that during the whole course of the agreement nothing emerged by way of dissatisfaction or dispute.

On behalf of TNT I would like to thank members for the manner in which they projected the company image on and off the field.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank past and present executive and members for the friendship and courtesy extended to Nita and myself over the years. We have enjoyed many social events and look forward to further convivial gatherings in the future.

The good news came with advice that FAI has entered into an agreement for sponsorship over the next three years. I congratulate them on recognising the value of such a move and the Association is most thankful for their support and will serve them well.

In addition, Ansett have indicated their continued support and their enthusiasm is appreciated.

We congratulate all active referees for another successful season with special mention of those involved in the final series.

Best wishes are extended for the coming festive season and we look forward with optimism to a more settled 1997.

LINDSAY PLOWES
Liaison Officer

TRAINING REPORT FROM NEWCASTLE

After the early seasons set backs, training sessions settled down to a more personalised training schedule. Attendance through out the season was excellent with a 82% ratio inclusive of Sydney appearances mid-week by the Association members.

The organised training was based on quality not quantity.

As is usual towards the Finnish of a season members can adopt the attitude that training is starting to drag out, but all endeavoured to maintain their enthusiasm and intensity in the completion of the

training obligations. Due to members having to attend mid-week in Sydney, time trials had to be staggered, the members here in Newcastle putting a 100% effort with average and above average results.

The Junior Representative referee's training generally was quite acceptable except with the only low existing from one member's lack of attendance at training.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

BILL GRAY
Conditioner (Newcastle)

TRAINING REPORT FROM CANBERRA

Following a successful 1996 season all members of grade and junior reps were given an off season program and reminded of the importance of staying trim during the Christmas break.

The first training session in Canberra was held in early February in lovely thirty degree temperatures. This was a contrast compared the zero to minus three and four degrees experienced for the remainder of the season.

However, all squad members attended on a regular basis which resulted in healthy competitiveness.

Assessment levels of fitness were carried out and feedback was provided regarding individual strengths and weaknesses.

Fitness tests were also conducted and the results indicated high levels of fitness and compared well with similar tests carried out last season.

The blending of the graded and junior rep. squad continued to be positive.

Our skills were maintained at a consistent level with our Sydney counterparts. This was achieved by ongoing consultation with our Co-ordinator Mick Stone,

Mick as usual made the track down to the chilly country on several occasions throughout the season.

During these visits all were put through constructive coaching sessions. His lectures and discussions along with the use of a T.V. monitor undoubtedly improved the on-field performances of both grade and junior rep members.

I take this opportunity to wish all members a Happy Festive Season and all the best for the coming year.

NOEL BISSETT
Conditioner & Skills Coach (Canberra)

TRAINING REPORT

The annual conditioning session ended on a great note with the majority of people achieving desired fitness goals. Most people ploughed through running skills, grunted during sit-ups and gritted teeth through push-ups. A good effort was put in even though some nights were not conducive to training outside.

It was pleasing to note that no injuries occurred during Wednesday night training sessions. The majority of the squad took on a professional attitude to all conditioning sessions which was evident when compiling Fitness Assessment statistics. We need to remember that to increase fitness levels, frequency and intensity need to form part of our training prescription. For improvements in our fitness levels, training should be conducted at least three times per week at the appropriate intensity. We need to incorporate an overload principle coupled with adequate recovery sessions to stimulate the muscular and cardiovascular system. It is important to continue training during the transition phase (off season). If some form of conditioning can be implemented during this period, it will be easier to reach a good level of fitness during the season. Good training principles combined with good nutrition will certainly increase our energy capabilities.

On behalf of myself and the other Sydney based conditioning staff, Donna, Ron and Dennis, we would like to thank the Association, Sponsors and all of the squad for their efforts, support and dedication throughout what would have to be a most unsettling year for the game of Rugby League.

I would like to thank Bill Gray of Newcastle and Noel Bissett of ACT for their assistance in compiling fitness assessment reports. I would also like to thank the Queensland referees for their professional attitude taken towards compiling the fitness assessment and also to David Manson for his kind and appreciated hospitality.

Well next years training will take on new conditioning ideas with intermittent fitness assessments (at least three). Lets psych ourselves for a new year and set our individual goals on improving our current fitness levels. Remember, fitness has no finish line. So lets get ready for another year of ups and downs, while side-winding through the cones and domes.

Best of luck to everyone for the 1997 season.

TREVOR DAVIES
Fitness co-ordinator

OPTUS CUP REFEREES' COACHING CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Refereeing in 1996 went through a period of consolidation. In 1995, turmoil was the name of the game and referees suffered as much as the game itself. In the season just past we worked steadfastly to a plan. That plan resulted in a number of young referees coming to the fore and consistently producing the goods.

The prediction that our referees would be attacked was well founded as some clubs (and media) delighted in singling us out for attention. Whilst we occasionally brought criticism upon ourselves, the majority of it was, I believe unwarranted. There was a genuine concern amongst some clubs that they would not be treated fairly. However, their fears were allayed following a number of meetings and indeed, agreements to give feedback from our referees' to the club(s) concerned. Towards the latter part of the year, those clubs accepted that our referees were honest and impartial.

The dust having settled from the 1995 season (refereeing wise, at least), the coaching panel decided to adopt a policy which was designed to give as many referees and opportunity to perform at a higher level than they were used to. Not exactly a "youth" policy (look at Matt Hewitt!) - more a policy to determine whether some of our young hopefuls had what it took when the pressure was on. Whilst giving some of the refereeing fraternity an opportunity to show their wares, by necessity, some others missed out. Unfortunately, that is the way of competition, and that very fierce competition will continue to keep our referees as the best.

That policy gave Paul Simpkins, Matt Hewitt and Sean Hampstead the chance to debut in First Grade, one which they all grabbed with both hands. The curriculum vitae of these debutantes

make for interesting contrasts. Simpkins the young bolter; Hewitt the gritty veteran; Hampstead the determined young star. All different, but all with the same objective.

The policy did not stop there. The opportunity was taken to blood a number of less experienced referees into Reserve Grade. I must say, that these experiments proved most successful. The reasons for that success is quite clear to me. In previous years, promising referees were thrust into grade to learn the art of refereeing. A lot just didn't make it - a lot were far too immature to succeed. The Association's coaching program now allows the League the luxury of grading people who have been taught the skills and are real referees before entering the Optus Cup ranks. For that, thanks must be tendered to Kevin Jeffes, Michael Ryan and newcomer Peter Filmer. The manner in which they are schooling "their boys" is now bearing fruit at the highest level.

Once again, Association coaches Dennis Spagarino and Kevin Roberts lent valuable expertise to coaching the Optus Cup referees. Bilko's spying missions at training are of course legendary, and he has been in secret training on roller skates, in order to keep up. He does, however, not take too kindly to his new nickname of "Jumpstart". I suggest that those aspiring referees stick to "Bilko". My thanks to both of these gentlemen for the many house which they selflessly give.

Touch judging (and in-goal judges) became even more important this year and as a consequence, the added involvement of coaches Ian McCall and Max Tomsett was most welcome. New drills and increased training sessions assisted in the improvement during the current year. Visits were also made to our members in New Zealand and Townsville

so that they could remain abreast of current developments.

Whilst talking of training, one could not ignore the contributions of Joe Griffiths. He not only assisted with training on Thursday nights, but also took a number of young referees under his tutelage for sprint training. Such dedication to the game he loves, for no monetary reward, is an indication why we are such a dammed hard mob to kill off, even allowing for the millions of dollars invested against us. I know that Joe wouldn't swap his George and Amy Hansen award for all of Murdoch's millions.

Two other people who have assisted in the office since I started are Arthur Neville and Ray O'Donnell. I couldn't wish for two better people and stronger supporters and I thank them for their assistance. Ron Massey is another bloke who I must thank for support. Although he tries to stay in the background, his support for referees is unflinching and given his respect in the greater Rugby League community, I am grateful for that support.

David Manson rose to prominence this year becoming the first referee ever to control all three State of Origin matches and in the process, equalling the record of nine. He followed that up by controlling the Test against Fiji and crowned his season with his first Optus Cup Grand Final. A fine year indeed for the veteran.

Youth took its turn at success as well. Paul McBlane's early season form was rewarded with City Country appointment in Wollongong while Kelvin Jeffes controlled the Test against Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby. Another of the young brigade, Paul Simpkins, was rewarded with a trip to Japan for an exhibition match between Manly and Sydney City.

Trevor Davies and his team took over the responsibility of keeping the guys fit and did so with great gusto. The referees appreciated the variety and effort put in by Trevor during the year and the level of fitness attained could not be criticised in any way.

As always, I am grateful for the support and assistance of Ian McCall and Les Matthews. The Association needed strong leadership through a turbulent period and it got that leadership. The year did not pass without the odd spirited debates. I always know when I'm in for a hard time its when Ian says. "I'm speaking to you as President..." It's time to shut up and listen.

Ansett continued their support as sleeve sponsor and Classic Sportswear as gear supplier. However, the great news late in the year, was the recruitment of FAI as major sponsor of the Association. The relationship has already blossomed and it looked so good to see initials once again emblazoned on the referees' uniforms. Welcome on board FAI, I'm certain that you will enjoy the trip.

The members of the Advisory Board continued in a positive fashion toward the betterment of refereeing. My thanks to those gentlemen.

As I said at the outset, 1996 was a year of consolidation and 1997 will be a difficult one as I expect further attacks from the Murdoch aligned media. We've come through difficult times before, and with the strength of purpose and camaraderie in this Association, we will continue to thrive and supply top rate referees to the Optus Cup for years to come.

See you all on the 1st of December.

MICHAEL STONE
Referees' Coaching Co-ordinator

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

First of all I would like to apologise for the non appearance of a Social Calendar this year, but with the year being such as it has been, it has been difficult to make plans very far in advance. It can only improve now that we have a sponsor. As always the main event of the year was the Presentation and Ladies Night held at the Concord Centre and whilst numbers were down, due to the number of Saturday games and the unfortunate clash with Western Suburbs Referees Association Ladies Night, the night was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to Ian Parnaby on his elevation to Life Member.

A great night was also held at Dirty Dicks, even though the numbers were down. We who attended were well entertained. It was very pleasing to note that the numbers were well up at the Appreciation Dinner and Life Members Night, proving that there is still a lot of life left in the Association.

Our dinner after the Grand Final was another success, well patronised. A special thanks to Mick Stone and the League for supplying two Australian tracksuits to raffle.

I would also like to thank Peter Ryan and Max Dunn for their help during the season. Special thanks should, as always, go to Steve Betts and Peter Kelly for their untiring help and support throughout the year.

On behalf of the Social Committee we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a great New Year.

BARRY RUTTLE
Social Secretary