

St George Little Athletics Centre

Annual Report for the 1971-1972 season

The original report consisted of a single page inserted into the minute book, which has not survived. Below is a re-creation from the memory of the then secretary. While it may not be a 100% accurate reproduction of the original document, the substance is essentially the same.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

This is the first annual report of the St George Little Athletics Centre.

The centre originated at a public meeting chaired by the Mayor of Kogarah last December when a steering committee was formed with the aim of establishing Little Athletics in the St George district.

Following articles in the St George Leader two registration days were held at Bell Park, South Hurstville, early in January which resulted in 98 registrations.

Our first competition was held on the soccer fields adjacent to Carss Park swimming pool. The area was large enough but the condition of the ground left a lot to be desired, and the track had to be marked out every week. Nevertheless, we managed to conduct races on a straight track and a circular track in addition to long jump, high jump and shot put events.

The only equipment initially available was the personal property of parents. We were fortunate that Ian Palmer, from Chapman's Sports Store at Rockdale, offered some equipment which could be paid for when we were financial. This included high jump stands and crossbar, relay batons and a starting gun.

Only two competition days were held at Cars Park before the Zone Championships took place at Waratah Park, Sutherland. The Zone Coordinator, Jim Cook, allowed us to enter athletes at the last minute. In the absence of an official centre uniform. the uniforms of the senior men's and women's clubs were used since many of the athletes who competed at the Zone Championships were members of those clubs.

Successful competitors at the Zone Championships qualified to compete at the State Championships at Narrabeen, which were held over two days. Most of our better athletes had other commitments on Saturday and could only complete on the Sunday. Nevertheless, they were very successful, winning three gold medals, two silver and two bronze. Andrew Scott 11B Triple Jump 1st, Russell Abberton 11B High Jump 1st, 200m 2nd, 800m 2nd; Jenny Hill 10G 400m 3rd; Tony Lynch 10B Long Jump 3rd; 11B 4x100m relay 1st. A commendable effort considering they were competing against established centres with hundreds of athletes.

Before the public meeting to form the St George Centre had been held, a trip to Melbourne had been arranged for some of our boys to compete in an athletic carnival. They were hosted by the Preston-Reservoir Centre who referred to the group as the St Georges Centre, even though they were representing the St George D.A.A.C.

I commend the efforts of the steering committee in "getting this show on the road" and hopefully laying the foundations for future progress. To this end a proposed constitution is tabled for your approval this evening.

One of the first tasks for the incoming committee, to be elected tonight, will be to find a more suitable ground for next season.

I thank chairman David Dickinson, treasurer Jean Thornthwaite and all committee members for their untiring efforts to ensure the success of this venture to date.

Fred Scott
Secretary