

EDITORIAL:Sport - and the Community

From earliest recorded time, sport has played an important part in the life of men in a community. It was a means of keeping fit and well for the young, as well as providing enjoyment for the older people. The rulers saw that the lessons learned from the games could be applied to life, and strict obedience to the rules of the games was enforced. At first their games were those such as fighting and wrestling, where the strength and skill of one man was tried against the skill and strength of another.

But as ideas of governing people changed, it was realised that team games helped people to see that all laws were really made for their own benefit. As new team games were found, players quickly realised the need for rules which stated how the game should be played, and the need, too, for penalties for those who deliberately broke the rules. They soon realized, too, that if they forgot they were individual players, and worked together as a team, it helped that team to victory. A new spirit had entered the world of sport, the team spirit, and to let the team down was considered a very serious offence by those who took their sport seriously.

In many ways, Palm Islanders are more fortunate than city dwellers. Here we live amid beautiful surroundings with many natural playing fields. But we would like to see more of our young people using those fields. The Welfare Association is always willing to help any genuine request from the sports committees. You will notice the word genuine. A request for equipment means you are prepared to use and care for that equipment. It means, too, that you are prepared to play the game properly, and see that you are in good condition to play, and will play when you are needed. This gear is far too expensive to be misused.

Finally, remember that a sense of time is necessary for all sport. It is just as necessary for you to know what time the game begins and be there ready to start, as it is for you to know the right time (to pass overleaf)