

This Sporting Life

Touch Football

Earlier this year, largely due to the machinations of Francis Curran, a team of touch footballers was formed to compete in the Law Week celebrations.

Selection being based on the age-old Barristers' criteria of seniority and weight our two teams presented an awesome aspect.

After a series of stirring speeches before the statue of Queen Victoria, one being delivered by means spiritual by Winston Churchill, the other by means corporeal by team Chaplain B S J O'Keefe QC, President, our team proceeded in echelon down to the Domain. With Churchill's "Beaches" speech still being played and the front ranks consisting of Ryan, Sheldon, Curran and Kavanagh (Tricia) the other participants (solicitors and their ring-ins) could not have failed to have been awestruck.

Two teams were entered, one dubbed "The Head Highs", the other "The Running Actions".

Ably organised by Curran and O'Dowd we proceeded to play our own idiosyncratic style of football, a style based on uncompromising defence (see Part 22 Supreme Court Rules) and an aggressive use of pre-match interlocutory devices.

Unfortunately, as ever, the lists were supervised by umpires who failed to pay close enough heed to the submissions that were put to them.

For example, many of the umpires considered Ryan's method of "double-handed" touching to be inconsistent with the rules. Similarly, it came as a great surprise to Willis, Sheldon and Curran that touching with the upper part of the arm, namely the point of the shoulder, had recently been proscribed. See *Margo v The Touch Football Association* (13.3.89 unreported).

After Sheldon was asked to retire to the sidelines for two minutes during one match the rule became somewhat more clear to us than it had previously been.

One of our teams managed two draws and a win to get through to the semi final. In passing one should notice the efforts of the younger and more fleet of foot who included K F Morrissey, D O'Dowd, R J H Darke and the writer. In the latter's case his speed was prompted by the desire to avoid being sandwiched between Ryan and Curran, the former of whom did not seem to care while the latter was playing without the assistance of glasses.

The competition was won by a team who had quite obviously flouted the rules by selecting, under cover of them being solicitors, triallists for the Springboks, Olympic sprint events and such like.

Photos of the team are available from Curran at a very reasonable \$500 per colour print. Proceeds will go towards purchase of a rule book and the team's tour to the south of France in 1992. □ J Poulos QC

Bench and Bar Services Golf Day Elanora Country Club Friday 9 July 1991

This report is made difficult by reason of the fact that O'Connor misappropriated not only the prizes, but the results sheet. It would appear that Judge Smyth won nearest pin on the 5th and the longest drives were, A grade R Skiller and B grade L Stone. The highest Bar team points were Judge Nash and R Yunken with 42 points, runners up Skiller and R Seton and J Harris and B Hrouda.

The overall result was another win (7 matches to 6) to the military, who on my count since 1933 have won 30 to the Bench and Bar's 20.

There were those who thought that as we lost so narrowly, the result might have been different had Wheelahan been available to play, even although his best golf is said to be behind him. □ Tony Hewitt



Back Row: S C Russell, G B Beveridge, D P O'Dowd, M P Cahill, J H Pearce
First Row: K F Morrissey, K J Ryan, G Jones, S E Torrington, F D M Curran, R S Sheldon, R J H Darke, T F McKenzie
Seated: T J J Willis, G D Hodgkinson, C Steirn, W P Y Austron,
B S J O'Keefe AM QC (President/Coach), J Poulos QC (Captain), C Stomo, T M Kavanagh, J A Kearney.