

This Sporting Life

Cricket: A Win and a Loss

The New South Wales Bar team played two matches this year, for a wine and a loss. Bruce Collins QC reports.

Victorian Bar

The Victorian Bar hosted their traditional opponents in competition for the Sub-Standard Trophy at Brighton Cricket Ground on 23 February last.

Some of the New South Welshmen were downcast at the prospect of beating the Victorians without the redoubtable E W Gillard QC. Those fears were dispelled when Gillard arrived resplendent in MCC striped blazer shortly before the toss. The stakes were down.

New South Wales won the toss and, with King SC in a frisky mood, elected to bowl on a good wicket. After his spell of 8 overs, the Novocastrian outwinger returned to his accustomed position at deep fine leg with the figures of 4 for 15.

King SC was assisted by eight other bowlers to dismiss Victoria for 146. Lachlan Gyles, the master of exaggerated flight, dropped in with two wickets. E W Gillard QC 27, Donald 25 not out.

New South Wales passed the Victorian total with the loss of four wickets. Former Sheffield Shield player Trevor Boyd top-scored with 55. Robert Weber made 23 and Collins 34.

Queensland Bar

At Sydney University, on 21st April, the New South Wales Bar hosted the Queensland Bar in what will become known as Traves' match.

New South Wales won the toss and asked the Queenslanders to bat on a flat track reclaimed from Rugby training. The theory was that the Blues were stronger with the bat than the ball on this day and could chase a respectable total and win.

After exchanging his boots with another New South Wales player, Hamman took the valuable wicket of Egan, the Queensland captain. This brought Roger Traves, a Queensland Sheffield Shield player, to the crease. To his dying day Hamman will contend his off cutter, striking Traves on the knee roll when on eleven, would have hit all three. A Lindfield cricket identity, and former friend of Hamman's brought along to umpire, did not agree.

Some time later, with Traves resting on 111 not out, Queensland reached 200. Lewis with 35 and Wilkin with 25 were the other successful Queensland batsmen.

At the beginning of the last over New South Wales required six runs to win. Priestly (27), Cheney (11) and King (17) had played spirited rear guard hands to bring us that close. We fell four short at 9 for 197. Maddocks played well for 29 until exhaustion overcame him. Loughton 17 and Collins 42 scored early runs. □

Report on Bench & Bar v Solicitors Golf Day 1996 - The Sir Leslie Herron Trophy

On Thursday 25 January, 1996, 69 golfers hit off at Manly Golf Club in the time-honoured tradition of Brown's Cows, allegedly adhering to the "draw", as it is affectionately known, not being anything more than the merest first draft of the eventual pairings, despite the Herculean work of the organiser, Roger Williams, Solicitor.

Instead of the usual thunder and lightning, the weather was perfect, though hot, having regard to our recent summer weather.

Malcolm Young, in particular, complained about the heat (having just flown in from Vail, no doubt, after a heavy mediating session on the slopes). Wheelahan QC (after his tilt at the 1995 Coolum Classic) put in a cameo appearance which led to Sinclair DCJ mumbling about ex officio indictment for either goods in custody or larceny by finding in respect of the possession of the Sir Leslie Herron mace. Wheelahan denied liability and asked for a permanent stay.

Judges Wall, Christie, Gallen and Freeman also represented the District Court Bench which always supports this event. All the Supreme Court Justices must have been kept away "conferring about the appointment of the next President of the Court of Appeal or writing ancient judgments". It is understood a Petition will be put to the AG to only appoint golfing judges in future (is this discriminatory? - are golfers a minority?).

The usual whingeing of the Solicitors about rigged handicaps when the Bench and Bar win the best score award is usually muted by the fact that the Solicitors win the overall trophy by 30 matches to one! However, on this occasion, the Bar "romped" home to win for the first time for a number of years by seven matches to five. Harry Stoyles, President of the Solicitors' Golf Society said that not even his creative accounting could rob the Bench & Bar of victory on this occasion. Judge Sinclair accepted the mace with only a hint of gloating.

The famous victory was made possible by James (Braveheart) Duncan playing two matches instead of one (both with Irishmen, Flaherty and Delaney) and also with Delaney taking out the best 4-ball score with 45 points. Young, despite the heat, fluked nearest the pin.

An excellent dinner was provided by the Club and good relations with the Solicitors were preserved for another year. □

Note: The New South Wales Bar cricket team is desperately feeling its age and seeks an injection of young hearts and minds. Please contact Larry King (telephone 231 1294) if you are interested.
