

NSW Bar XI v HIH Royal Commission

By Lachlan Gyles

On 9 February 2003 the NSW Bar cricket team took on the might of the HIH Royal Commission at Reg Bartley Oval, Rushcutters Bay, hoping to return some of the fire handed out by counsel assisting over the previous few months.

We were sent in to bat, although as things transpired the conditions for batting seemed significantly more favourable than were experienced by some of the witnesses at the commission. Counsel assisting also seemed somewhat confused when appeals were refused, and more so when the commissioner himself called back Habib after having been given out in controversial circumstances by Sexton SC who, according to Habib, must have been watching another game.

A brief but typically flamboyant cameo from Bell at the top of the order was consolidated by Habib, Sexton SC and Brender in the middle stages and built to a crescendo in the dying overs by Gray, McInerney, Vincent and Reynolds SC.

We finished with 179.

The commission struggled with the loss of early wickets including the tragic run out by Carroll of White SC. A steady partnership between Nicholl and O'Bryan then gave the commission a glimmer of hope until Foord was introduced into the attack and took a wicket with his first ball, a feat also

achieved earlier in the innings by King SC with a well disguised slower ball. We then held them at bay for the last few overs and victory was ours, the commission finishing about 40 odd short.

A most enjoyable day for all concerned and a good tune up for the match against the Qld Bar.

NSW Bar XI v QLD Bar XI

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On 5 April 2003 the might of the NSW Bar travelled to Brisbane to take on the Queenslanders. We won the toss, which some regarded as the high point of the day, and sent them into bat on a slightly moist track, which was thought to contain something for the firebrand NSW opening bowlers.

The expected carnage did not materialise as the Queensland openers survived the onslaught from King SC and Naughtin, albeit in relatively restrained fashion.

The first wicket fell shortly before drinks which were taken after 20 overs, caught Scruby in the covers off Gyles. Durack and Carroll then combined to take another three wickets over the next few overs, including another Scruby catch and an unexpected LBW from a Queensland umpire (thought to have been the first for 15 years).

Taylor, the Queensland opener, then put the accelerator down and in combination with some good hitting at the

other end saw the enemy reach 184 off their allotted overs, Taylor finishing with an unbeaten 91.

It was always going to be a big ask to get the runs, and one of the NSW big guns (if you could call them that) was going to have to fire for us to even get close. After the early dismissal of Dalgleish, uncharacteristically playing the hook shot, Harris joined Carroll and kept up with the required run rate for the first ten or so overs. Things however stagnated somewhat when they got out and when Durack was tragically run out attempting a quick single, the target probably moved beyond our reach.

Notwithstanding that, a brave rearguard action was fought by Neil, Ireland QC, Benson and Naughtin, and we were able to achieve at least some respectability in getting to about 120, all out.

The match was followed by the now traditional session at the Regatta Hotel, followed by an excellent dinner hosted by the locals and their wives.

This fixture has now been going for thirty years and has been greatly enjoyed by all who have been involved in it. Its continuity depends upon younger members of the Bar coming forward to continue the tradition set by the original players such as the late Jack Hartigan, and all cricketers are encouraged to make themselves available.



The combined talents of the NSW Bar and the HIH Royal Commission.

