

NSW Bar v Victorian Bar football match

By Stephen Free

On 6 September 2008 a squad of determined and damp barristers contested the inaugural football match between the NSW Bar and the Victorian Bar. The match was played in horrendous conditions after torrential rain submerged the arena at St John's Oval, Sydney University. The aquatic setting made for a scrappy match but both sides battled away with admirable spirit.

At full-time scores were locked at 2-2, with Shereef Habib and Cameron Jackson on the scoresheet for NSW. In the finest barristerial tradition of representative adaptability, Jack Harris distinguished himself in goal for the Victorians after the visiting goalkeeper was dispatched to RPA following a nasty collision with a local goalpost. But Harris proved to be no match for the NSW penalty takers as the match proceeded to a shootout, with NSW prevailing 4-2. Simon Burchett, in goal for NSW, chimed in with a timely save. Greg Watkins and Jim Fitzpatrick were named best and fairest for NSW and Victoria respectively. There will be a return fixture in Melbourne in 2009 and other fixtures are being planned to feed the healthy appetite for football of the NSW bar.



The victorious NSW Bar football team. Back row, L to R: Michael Holmes, Vahan Bedrossian, Iain Todd, David Patch, Mark Gibian, Donald Mitchell, Jeh Coutinho, Carlos Mobellan, Lachlan Gyles, John Marshall SC, Stephen Free, Houda Younan, Cameron Jackson, Anthony Lo Surdo, Graham Turnbull SC. Front row, L to R: Greg Watkins, Gillian Mahoney, Colin Magee, Nick Tiffen (referee), Simon Burchett, Simon Phillips, Shareef Habib. Photo By Kim Free.

Special mention and thanks go to our generous sponsors Suncorp and LexisNexis, David Stanton, Nick Tiffen and his daughter for officiating, President Katzmann for braving the conditions to award the trophies, George Porthouse for his coaching expertise and Anthony Lo Surdo and Simon Phillips for their organisational endeavours.

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Richmond Chambers supports local junior rugby league

Richmond Chambers (Lismore) has donated a set of 20 rugby league jumpers to Goonellabah Primary School. Until then, the league team had been playing in borrowed singlets. Almost half of the school's students are Indigenous and they are enthusiastic supporters of the game.

Nick Harrison and Eoin Johnston of Richmond Chambers presented the jumpers to the team

Fellow barristers Michael McCall and David Imlah were unable to attend the presentation, which was held at the school during NAIDOC week. Nick has served on the local senior rugby league judiciary for many years and Eoin, after an early stint in league, has spent the bulk of his life involved with rugby union. Both addressed the students on the value of sport and learning and the discipline required to succeed.



Back row: left to right are Mark Spencer, Stephanie Wallace (teachers), Nicolas Harrison and Eoin Johnston (Richmond Chambers), middle: Marcus Dargan and Stanly Knight. Front: Jamie Saunderson, Wally Kelly, Jade Cook and Jai Knight.