

This Sporting Life

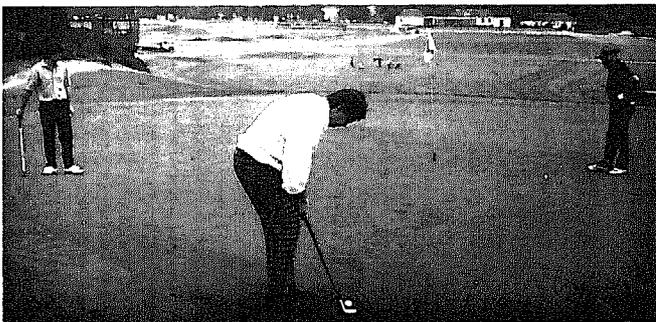
Golf - Bench & Bar v. Services

Snow still lay on the ground in Lithgow being lashed by gale force Westerlies as 22 intrepid Bench and Bar golfers teed off at Elanora Country Club in the annual match against the Services. As a consequence, scoring proved difficult although a clear sky and sunshine made a pleasant enough day for a round of golf and one encouraging appreciation for the warm soup and coffee laid on for morning tea and the roaring fires warming the clubhouse in the afternoon.

In the result, the Bench and Bar was narrowly ahead until the late return of a card recording a miserable 16 points by a team including a District Court judge who will remain unnamed (but possibly not unidentifiable). This low score had the effect of converting a narrow margin into a comprehensive loss although the Bench and Bar did manage to salvage the B Grade trophy. Somewhat curiously, in these circumstances, the Bench and Bar returned the best card of the day by Judge Gallen and Neil Francey on 44 points with the best runner-up score as well being recorded by Rod Skiller and Ken Earl. In addition, Rod Skiller won the A Grade long drive with Judge Sinclair and another Bench and Bar member picking up the nearest pin.

Unfortunately, numbers from both the Bench and Bar and the Services were down on recent years, not so much because of the cold weather on the day but perhaps the fact that last year's event was cancelled due to several months of heavy rain, and possibly because the date is not convenient particularly as the July vacation is not so widely recognised. In addition, the date this year fell in the middle of the school holidays. As it turned out, very few members of the Bench and Bar stayed on for what proved to be an enjoyable formal meal and post-dinner camaraderie. Participation in one of these black tie/mess dress dinners is an experience well worth sampling and a tradition not to be lost. It is intended to play next year's match toward the end of July and notification of the selected date will be given early next year to enable as many players as possible to participate.

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Maconachie putts on somewhere in the Northern Hemisphere (this has nothing to do with this item...see page 25).

Cricket

The Bar Cricket team followed its exciting win against the Solicitors at North Sydney Oval with mixed results in the interstate clashes against the Victorian and Queensland Bar teams.

The team travelled to Melbourne for its annual match against the Victorian eleven on 24 March. The game was held in unexpectedly balmy conditions at the picturesque Fitzroy-Doncaster Cricket Ground. The Victorians won the toss and sent New South Wales in to bat, and achieved early success, with the result that New South Wales were 3/28 at the end of 16 overs from the Victorian opening bowlers, Harper QC, and Connor. A solid partnership between Hamman (34) and Laughton (45) restored some respectability, but then, despite the seniority of Gyles QC and the panache of Poulos, a steady flow of wickets saw a modest total of 145 off 40 overs with only Hastings (18) reaching double figures. After a pleasant lunch, the Victorians batted confidently and looked comfortable at 5/112, but steady bowling by Laughton and Naughtin saw the Victorians slump to 8/137. Unfortunately they were able to scramble the few runs remaining and thereby gain possession of the trophy for the following year.

We played host to the Queensland eleven at the Bradman Oval at Bowral on 28 April, in pleasant conditions after a week of steady rain. In order to enable the team to display its character, the skipper, having won the toss, decided to bat on a moist wicket. Harris and Wilkins, until injured (as usual), showed their mettle by batting stoutly in the difficult conditions and then Laughton (51) and Foord (69) batted for almost all of the remaining overs to take the score to 153 off 40 overs. Laughton completed a fine series after being a major contributor in each of the games played. Foord again displayed his class by batting until the last over and by playing a wide range of shots in challenging conditions.

After lunch the guests batted on a firmer wicket but were never in the chase for the target, eventually being all out for 101. Naughtin had the useful figures of 4/4 from 6 overs and Levick (2/11) and Hamman (1/18 off 9 overs) gave the batsmen little respite. The team fielded well and Ireland kept wickets with his usual finesse.

The experiment of playing out of town so that both the home and visiting teams and spouses and friends could reside at the same establishment was a success with a pleasant dinner on Saturday night and lunch at the home of Collins QC on Sunday. Special thanks go to Collins for his efforts in securing the use of his magnificent Bradman Oval and Museum and for his hospitality on Sunday. Thanks also go to Maiden who showed great skill and persuasive powers in securing accommodation for all players and interested spectators in Bowral for the weekend.

□ Peter Hastings.

Hockey One

On 24 March the New South Wales Legal Eagles team, which included some members of the New South Wales Bar and substantially more New South Wales solicitors, met the Victorian Bar and a team of Victorian solicitors at the Victorian State Hockey Centre at Royal Park.

The Victorian Bar managed to field a team containing only barristers, which was, rather obscurely entitled "Bar None". The Legal Eagles team was, disappointingly, only able to recruit two members of the NSW Bar: Masterman QC and