

This Sporting Life

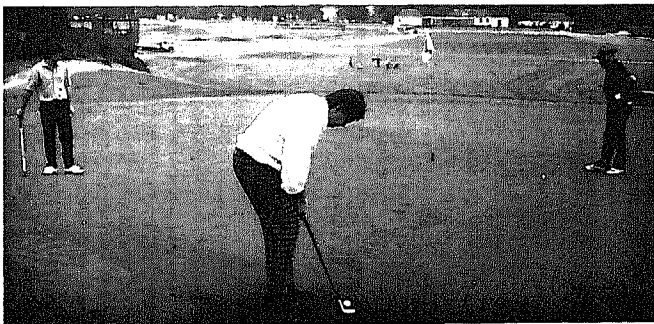
Golf - Bench & Bar v. Services

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

Bellanto QC. The Legal Eagles were eliminated in the first round, going down 4-1 to the Victorian "Bar None" team and 3-1 to the Victorian solicitors' team. Not surprisingly, no report of this event filtered through to Bar News and it was not until a crowing report of the event appeared in Victorian Bar News that the editor was even aware the event had taken place and conducted enquiries.

Peter Callaghan, until comparatively recently a member of our Bar and now a solicitor, reported that the match was organised through the initiative of the Victorian Bar and was timed to coincide with the cricket match between the New South Wales and Victorian Bars in Melbourne (another match which has not reached the Editor's ears until minutes before deadline, presumably because, again, the Victorian Bar defeated the New South Wales Bar).

Despite the minor involvement of the New South Wales Bar in the "Legal Eagles" team, their participation is described as "enthusiastic" and "prominent". Masterman QC is said to have been in one of his particularly talkative moods and to have made a most vocal contribution to all matches, including the matches between the two Victorian teams which resulted in a draw.

By way of background the "Legal Eagles" team was formed by, amongst others, Meares QC in the late 1950s and has played each season since then as the lowest grade team with Gordon Club. Apart from Meares QC it has included over the years Holland J., Barbour DCJ., Newton DCJ., Masterman QC, Gyles QC, Graham QC, Bellanto QC, Collins QC and G.H. Johnson. For many years until 1987 there were annual hockey matches between Bar and solicitors' teams with the Bar currently holding the Noonan Trophy, having retrieved it from the solicitors with a long awaited win in 1987. Unfortunately the Bar seems to have regarded this success as enabling it to retire from the fray and the Bar has been unable to put together a hockey team since then. It would be disappointing if this contest was allowed to lapse.

Anyone interested in forming part of a revived Bar Hockey Team should contact either Masterman QC or Bellanto QC. There are to be return matches against the Victorian Bar and the Law Institute in Sydney in 1991. It would be a good idea to get a team together in time to be able to field a Bar team totally against the Victorian Bar to avenge the recent defeat. □

Letter to the Sporting Editor

Dear Editor,

Re: Cricket: "Bar Routs Solicitors (Just)" and "a swat to couch shot corner" - Bar News Autumn 1990

I've not been a real cricketer but have been a cricket devotee most of my life-(I've seen a part of every Test played on S.C.G. since 1924).

Until a few years ago I was a player and later a spectator in the NSW Bar v. Queensland Bar matches played in Sydney and Brisbane.

My memory allows me to hear almost "instant replays" of the "mock" broadcasts of the England v. Australia tests of the early 1930s in which Charles Moses, Bernard Kerr (now both deceased) and Alan McGilvray participated. Before them Monty Noble and Johnny Moyes figured prominently in commentaries. Mel Morris (Victoria) was a well known voice during the bodyline days of 1932/33. Later (post war) Arthur Gilligan and Victor Richardson ("Arthur and Vic") were the "pathfinders" to a host of cricket commentators, from England and Australia, some of whom are heard to this day.

I've heard them all and seen most of them, but never, repeat never, have I heard anyone of them describe a shot as "a swat to couch shot corner"!!

In making this admission I regret I've sacrificed any chance of getting a free ticket to the next Bar v. Solicitors match.
"IT MUST HAVE BEEN A TYPESETTING ERROR".

Dudley Williams
6 June 1990

Cycling Day

The inaugural Legal Cycling Day was held on 6 May 1990 for family and friends of members of the Bar, Allen Allen & Hemsley, Mallesons Stephen Jaques and Frechill Hollingdale & Page in the Cattai area with a start at the historic Ebenezer Church. Approximately 130 enthusiasts participated. The long course was a testing 60 kilometres in warm conditions, while a shorter course over 16 kilometres was available for the less energetic. The Bar contributed 30 cyclists including clerks, family and friends and featuring a hard core of Austin, Cotman, Hastings, Loveday, O'Loughlin, Pembroke, Regattieri and Robson.

Those who could still sit down afterwards enjoyed a pleasant lunch provided by the citizens of Ebenezer in the attractive church grounds aptly adjacent to the graveyard.

The Clarence Street Cyclery generously provided a maintenance crew and donated a bicycle as a prize for a raffle, the proceeds of which went to the Spina Bifida Unit of the Children's Hospital.

Encouraged by the success of the day, the organisers have promised a re-run at about the same time next year.

□ Peter Hastings

