

Tenth Great Bar Boat Race - Record Fleet Produces the Closest Result in the History of the Race

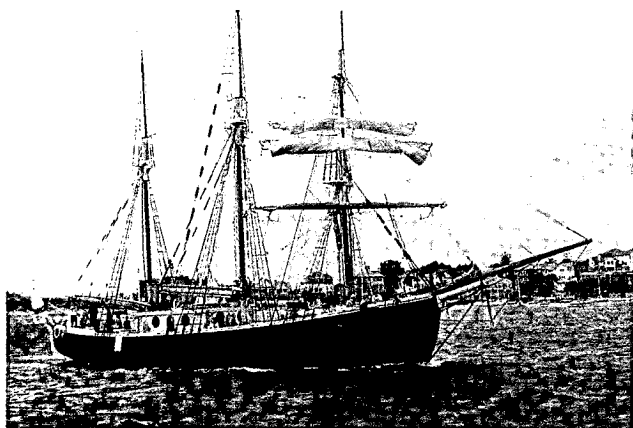
The Tenth Great Bar Boat Race was sailed on Sydney Harbour on Monday, 20 December 1993. A record fleet of 66 yachts faced the starter's gun. Such was the size of the fleet that for the first time it was divided into four divisions. The race was sailed in a 10 to 15 knots south-easterly breeze which produced mostly reaching and downwind sailing. These conditions suited crew who were not seasoned sailors.

The race produced an epic struggle between the Bench and Bar. Solomon DCJ in *Yeromais V*, a wooden-hulled gaff-rigged yacht, won the race and took the Law Book Company Sailing Trophy and the Chalfont Cup by a mere 10 seconds from Morris QC who sailed a similar yacht. The lead seesawed between these two during the course of the race and Morris described the day as one of the most exciting of his sporting life. Such was his exhilaration that he has kindly offered to donate a trophy for annual competition for wooden-hulled yachts in the race.

Following is a complete list of the trophy winners in the race:

LAW BOOK COMPANY SAILING TROPHY

Division I		
Chalfont Cup	Solomon DCJ	<i>Yeromais V</i>
The Compo Cup	Morris QC	<i>Careel</i>
Gruff Crawford Memorial Panache Trophy		
	Patch	<i>Starship Swiftblue</i>
John Hartigan Shield	Horler QC/Patch	Forbes Chambers
Division II		
	Peterson J	<i>Bounty</i>
Division III		
	Horler QC	<i>The Pink Boat</i>
Division IV		
	Deggens	<i>Salvation Girl</i>



Captain Cranitch preparing a boarding party at the Great Bar Boat Race 1993



Solomon DCJ, winner of the Law Book Company Sailing Trophy Division I and the Chalfont Cup.

The race and the social activities of the day were probably the most successful of the 10-year history of this event. \$3200 was raised for the Bar's Christmas Charity, the St Vincent's Hospital Radiation Oncology Nurses' Fund.

It is anticipated that by reason of the size of the race that it may well be sponsored in 1994.

The writer has declined the kind offer of Wheelahan QC for this report to be published under his name this year.

□ D T Kennedy

Bench and Bar v Solicitors Golf Match 1994

108 players turned out to the annual grudge match between the Bench and Bar v Solicitors at Manly in January this year.

A good turnout from the Bench and Bar enabled 20 matches to be played for the Sir Leslie Herron trophy. Regrettably, I have to report that again the solicitors were successful, 11 matches to 7, with two matches halved.

As usual, as well as the teams event for the Sir Leslie Herron trophy, there were prizes for a range of successes. The results were:

- Winners 18 holes - Phil Greenwood and Rick Seton - 51 points (Bar).
- Runners-up - Ross Golotta and Vince Goluzzo - 47 points.
- Best front 9 - Ed Fritchley and Richard Jankowski - 25 points.
- Best back 9 - John Newnham and Glenn Thompson - 24 points.
- Nearest the pin, 3rd hole - Norm Delaney (Bar).
- Nearest the pin, 18th hole - Glen Eggleton.
- Longest drive (men) John Maconachie (Bar).
- Longest drive (ladies) Janina Jancu.

Self-assessment works for the Tax Department these days and it seems Phil Greenwood has determined it's a pretty good idea for handicapping as well - given his obscene success this year, his view of his handicap is unlikely to coincide with that of the stewards next year.

It was terrific to see a number of women players on both teams this year; hopefully, they will attend in even greater numbers next year.

After the golf, as usual, dinner was enjoyed in the beautiful old Manly club house. Fine weather, the best summertime golf course in Sydney, good company and excellent dining made for a very enjoyable day.

Thanks to the District Court Judges for their wholehearted support of the event, as usual, and to Roger Williams, Solicitor, for his organisation of the day.

Apart from the annual match against the Solicitors in January, a match is played against the Services each year. A club handicap is not essential. Anyone interested in playing should contact the Bar Association and ask for their name to be added to the list of those who receive notice of golfing events. □ John Maconachie QC

Bench and Bar v Services Golf Match 1994

Traditionally, the Bench and Bar plays golf against the Services each year in July. We have done so for more than 60 years. Until recently the end of the July vacation was a convenient time for the contest.

Alterations to vacation arrangements, particularly in the Supreme Court, have caused significant problems in the recent past. No Supreme Court Judges now support the event, no doubt because of the disappearance of a fixed mid-year vacation.

Members of the Bar find it difficult to commit themselves to a Friday morning golf match until the very last moment and that makes organisation of the event difficult.

Accordingly, it is time for a change. I have met with representatives of the three Services. We have decided to:-

- (i) avoid a July date in 1994;
- (ii) seek an eastern suburbs golf course early in Daylight Saving Time;
- (iii) hit off between about 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock on a Friday afternoon;
- (iv) return to the concept of dining in at the Officers' Mess of the organising Service, or in the Bar Common Room on the occasions when, by rotation, the Bar organises the event.

This year, the Army is the organising Service; Major Beckett has told me that Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess is the likely venue for dinner.

Preliminary planning is directed towards a date in the first two weeks of November 1994.

I hope that the changes outlined above may make the occasion more attractive to members of the Bench and Bar, and in particular the Supreme Court Judges. □

John Maconachie QC

Tennis: Judge Barbour QC Cup

It may not have been Wimbledon. There certainly weren't any strawberries and cream. Even so, for the two Supreme Court Judges and the thirty members of the Bar who attended at the Strathfield Recreation Club, the 1993 Bench and Bar Tennis on 21 December 1993 was a very enjoyable day in the best tradition of Bench and Bar activities.

In what may well have been a first, female members of the Bar were represented by Cecily Backhouse QC, Anne-Marie Ford and Lisa Stapleton.

Many people want to play and are willing to sign up but insofar as the event occurs the day after the Great Bar Boat Race, a number of competitors are presumably feeling as if they are still at sea and are never seen. In addition, there seems to be a perversity of nature such that if it is not actually raining, the threat of it is always there. Accordingly, numbers are an uncertainty.

This year the pairings as were organised on the day by Stevens QC and Tony Reynolds encouraged close matches. In fact, after six rounds of play to determine the semi-final combatants, only one game kept out the fifth and sixth pairings from making what became all-male semi-finals. Bad luck, Anne-Marie (and Warwick Reynolds).

Babette Smith arrived at the courts in the afternoon to check the form and kindly officiated at the presentation, calling upon her personal store of legal anecdotes as befitted a court-related occasion.

The final was won by Barry Newport QC and Phillip Dowdy, who defeated the combination of Kevin Lindgren QC and Kim Morrissey in a very close game.

As befits an activity of Bench and Bar, prior winning doubles pairs have been from all ranks of the Bar as well as the Judiciary.

Mr Justice Beaumont is in the unique position of both featuring most frequently and, in addition, to have done so in all capacities: as a Junior in 1968, 1972 and 1976 with D J McCredie, J S Cripps and R V Gyles QC, respectively, then as Silk in 1979 with T R Morling QC and, most recently, as a Judge in 1988 with P J Deakin.

The inscription for the inaugural winners of the Cup in 1965 reads "T R Cole and N H McLelland". Each has featured in later years also.

The auld mug inscribed as "Bench and Bar Tennis Cup presented by R T H Barbour" but more familiarly known as "The Barbour Cup", is now filled with the names of the winning pairs but continues to be the Holy Grail for those who play in the Annual Bench and Bar Tennis Day.

The competition this year will be on 20 December, 1994. We look forward to seeing an even greater attendance. □

C Stevens QC and Tony Reynolds

Coming Events

1. SQUASH

- Winter or early spring
- State Bank facility (probably)
- Teams of three
- Organise a team and contact Peter Taylor SC on 8th floor, Wentworth Chambers.

2. HOCKEY

- July or thereabouts
- Barristers v Solicitors
- Killara Oval
- If you are interested, contact Peter Callaghan, Nigel Bowen Chambers.

3. HOCKEY - Interstate

- Preliminary discussions have taken place directed to organising a hockey match against the Victorian Bar. The match would probably be held in Melbourne over a weekend. Expressions of interest should be directed to Peter Callaghan, Nigel Bowen Chambers.

4. GREAT BAR BOAT RACE

- End of term, December 1994
- Date to be advised.

5. GOLF

- Bench and Bar v Services
- Early November

- Afternoon hit-off
- Dinner at an Army Mess, probably Victoria Barracks.

6. GOLF - KEN HALL CLASSIC

- Invitation event, much like the Masters
- Money paid to Tony Bannon, 10th floor, Wentworth Chambers, gets you an invitation
- End of term, December 1994
- Date to be advised.

7. TENNIS

- Tuesday 20 or Wednesday 21 December
- Venue to be decided
- Doubles, with the successful pair receiving the perpetual Barbour Trophy
- Opponents are matched for skill, as far as possible, to achieve competitive matches
- Women are not only welcome but, according to Clarrie Stevens, are desirable; several played successfully last year.
- Lunch is a feature
- Contact Clarrie Stevens QC.

8. CRICKET

- March 1995
- Games are played against Queensland and Victorian Bars, one home, one away
- Games against the Solicitors and the ACT Bar are played in some years
- Contact Peter Hastings QC, Larry King or Peter Maiden.

"Fifteen bobber" for Justice Simpson on her appointment to the Supreme Court and Judge Truss on her appointment to the Compensation Court.



Judge Truss and Justice Beazley



Justice Simpson addresses the gathering