

The Barbour Cup

By Anthony Reynolds

The original Barbour Cup for the Bench and Bar Tennis Competition was donated by Richard Barbour in 1965. In 1994 the cup became known as Barbour-Backhouse Cup, named after two District Court judges.

This double competition has been principally played at the Royal Sydney Golf Club between the years 1965 to 2004.

Without doubt these magnificent facilities (ten lawn courts, the tennis house and the use of the Sports Bistro dining room for the luncheon and after final drinks) offered to the NSW Bar Association each year by that club's Tennis Committee, is testimony to the golf club's acceptance that judges and barristers have to have one day a year to relax and enjoy playing in a tennis tournament rather than their usual daily rigors of court attendances. No other organisation is granted this privilege to use the golf and/or tennis facilities for a day's play at the club.

The 2004 tennis day was held on Tuesday, 21 December 2004. The Grand Final was won by Justice Michael Walton and Frank Veltro defeating Randall Powell and Warwick Reynolds 6/4 6/4.

This competition has had many double pairs over its forty years history (1965-2004). There has been one player who has had an outstanding history in winning this competition with different partners. His record will never be repeated in our lifetime!

Bryan Beaumont won as junior counsel in 1968, 1972 and 1976; as senior counsel in 1979, as a justice of the Federal Court in 1988 and in 1999 the pair of justices Brian Beaumont and Kevin Lindgren were leading in the day's competition for the semi-finals when they were urgently requested by the registrar to attend back at the Full Court of the Federal Court, Queens Square by 3.30pm that afternoon. Play was rescheduled to include the fifth pair for the semi-finals.

Not until after his last appearance in the 2002 year's competition due to his ill health in 2003, did Justice Beaumont put his racket up and not be in the winner circle! In both the 2001 and 2002 years' competition Justice Beaumont played with Justice Roger Giles. They were defeated in the 2001 year by Randall Powell and Nicholas Beaumont (the judge's son) in a long lasting Grand Final that took over 1 1/4 hours to complete (after 7 rounds during the day) - 6/3, 3/6, 6/1.

In the 2002 year they lost in the semi-finals to Nicholas Beaumont and Michael Elkaim 7/5.



Justice Bryan Beaumont on the occasion of his retirement.

It is a great achievement for any tennis player to be able to compete at such a high level for thirty eight years (1965 - 2002) in such a competition where all players are evenly graded each year for the day's play.

All the players miss Bryan at the yearly competition and wish him the best in his retirement from competitive tennis and the Federal Court where he also achieved, before his recent retirement from same in 2005, the position of the highest ranked Federal Court judge other than the chief justice of the Federal Court of Australia.

Three cheers for Bryan !!!

