

NSW Bar v Qld Bar

By Lachlan Gyles

On 15 October 2006 the NSW Bar cricket team played its annual match against the Qld Bar at the picturesque Hordern Oval, Cranbrook.

The match has been played every year since 1973, and in the recent past has been strongly influenced by a home ground advantage. The last seven matches have been won by the home side.

This year there was an added feature to the match because a number of players who had been team mates on the Australian Bar Hong Kong Tour during Easter were pitted against each other for the first time since that trip.

NSW won the toss and batted on a coolish spring day. Bilinsky (53) and Steele (44) got the locals off to a great start, combining for

a century opening stand off about 16 overs. They then went quickly, and following the loss of Docker shortly thereafter to the bowling of Williams, Queensland were back in the game.

Carroll (26) and Scruby (19) then steadied the ship before being dismissed with the score not far short of 150 with eleven overs to go. A total score in the region of 190 or 200 looked like the best NSW might hope for.

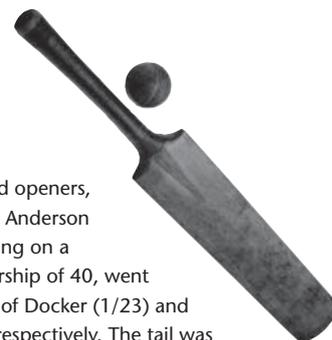
However, a flamboyant 53 by Stowe, including four sixes, supported by Gyles (21), Durack, Bova and Hodgson, saw the home team to 8/243, having scored almost 90 off the final ten overs of the innings. The pick of the bowlers for Queensland were Williams (2/36) and Collins (4/33).

It had the look of a winning total, unless the Queenslanders could get away to a strong start. However, a miserly opening spell by the evergreen Naughtin (3-20) and debutante Eastman (1/26) saw the visitors on the back foot at 4/50 off 16 overs.

The Queensland openers, Taylor (33) and Anderson (29), after putting on a fighting partnership of 40, went to the bowling of Docker (1/23) and Durack (3/21) respectively. The tail was then set upon by Bova, Carroll and Gyles who, together with Durack, each bowled leg spin in a variety of shapes and styles that would have bought a tear to the eye of Tiger O'Reilly, or even perhaps former Queensland Colts leggie Callinan J, whose Gray Nicholls Scoop was kindly donated by him on his retirement from the Queensland side in 1993 to be used as the trophy for the fixture.

The Qld skipper Egan (13), Nase (21 n/o) and Collins (7) all fought hard for the cause. But when Murphy, called back into the side after a short but unjust absence, went first ball in fading light, victory was secured for NSW.

The hostilities will resume in Queensland in 2007.



The QLD team.