

NSW Bar v Queensland Bar



On 3 October 2009 the New South Wales Bar Cricket Team travelled to Brisbane for the annual encounter with the Queensland Bar. The victorious team earns the right to hold for the following year a Greg Chappell Gray Nicolls Super Scoop Bat, once the weapon of choice for the Hon IDF Callinan QC, which was donated by the former Queensland Colts leg spinner to serve as the perpetual trophy for the fixture. It was therefore fitting that the match should take place at the Brisbane Grammar School Cricket Ground, his *alma mater*. The fixture was the 36th in succession, the first being played in Brisbane in 1973, and since that time has been the source of great friendship and camaraderie both within the respective teams, and between them.

The toss was won by NSW who took first use of the wicket in a 40 over match. Steele and Dalgliesh got the visitors away briskly taking the score to 32 off the first six overs, Steele being particularly brutal through the offside, with Dalgliesh steadily turning over the strike at the other end. Dalgliesh then fell, nicely caught in the slips by Traves SC off Williams; and Carroll, a prolific run scorer in these matches in recent years, joined Steele at the crease.

These two took the score to 1/50 off the first 10 overs, and NSW were looking at a formidable total, somewhere in excess of 200. However, the pendulum swung when Steele was well caught at extra cover off the bowling of Anderson for a stylish 41, and then Docker was removed in the following over, controversially given out LBW (for the third time in four games), to leave the visitors 3/53. It was on any view a generous act by the visitors.

Chin and Carroll then consolidated taking the score to 90 off 23 overs before Carroll was removed for 30 by a fine catch in the outfield off the bowling of Taylor. Chin went shortly afterwards followed quickly by Neil and Priestley (representing the Lismore Bar), and when Gyles was removed by Crawford for 21 the NSW innings was teetering at 7/119 off 30 overs. Thankfully some fine hitting from Eastman in the last few overs saw NSW to 9/158 off 40 overs, with Naughtin and King remaining undefeated.

The Queensland bowlers, particularly Williams, Anderson and Crawford, had bowled very well and Queensland was very happy to have restricted the visitors to that score.

To win NSW needed early wickets however the experienced Queensland opening pair of Traves SC and Taylor started very steadily advancing the score to 0/50 off 10 overs. The old warhorse, King SC, was then replaced by Docker who generated some real pace and bounce from the pavilion end, and picked up the wickets of both of the Queensland openers, Traves SC falling to a fine catch by Chin behind the stumps. At 2/55 NSW were back in the match.

Johnstone then joined former Queensland Captain Egan and the score progressed to 85 in quick time before Egan was out foxed by the wily Naughtin. However, by that stage with Johnstone scoring freely from the other end, Queensland were in the box seat. Eastman then returned for a second spell and picked up the wickets of Crawford and Johnstone, and Queensland were 5/128 although with plenty of overs to spare.

The spinners Carroll and Gyles were then introduced into the attack and managed to put some pressure on the Queensland pair of Williams and McLeod, however in the end they saw the Queenslanders home in the 35th over. It had been a very good effort by the NSW bowlers but in the end the target was probably a few runs short. All credit to the Queensland side for a strong all round performance. They were deserving victors.

In the usual way, the NSW team was treated to some wonderful Queensland hospitality that night at a dinner by the river and it was great to see two stalwarts of the fixture, King SC and Naughtin, there until the end giving as good as they got.

We all look forward to the next match in Sydney in 2010.

By Lachlan Gyles SC



Members of Denman Chambers by Simon Fieldhouse

Jeremy Gormly SC, Jeffrey Phillips SC, Gary Wilson, Wendy Thompson (owner of the dog - Lily),
Bruce Hodgkinson, Kylie Nomchong, David Shoebridge, Martin Shume,
Ian Latham, Jim Pearce and Georgia (waiter).