NSW v Victoria barristers hockey match

By Andrew Scotting

On 27 October 2012 the NSW and Victorian Barristers Hockey teams met in Sydney to play their annual match for the prize of the Rupert Balfe – Leycester Meares Cup.

In this year’s fixture we were soundly beaten, resulting in ‘the Cup’ heading south for the first time in a number of years.

I would like to think that we were nothing but hospitable to the Victorians, providing a glorious day, a fine venue and a few extra players. Regrettably, neither the weather or the venue affected the final result, but the decision to provide the Victorians with a few extra players, notably one in particular, did.

In recent years I have seen enough rugby league, rugby union and AFL players doing the TV ‘mea culpa’ interview to know how it goes. In my many years of hockey, I have never come across such a phenomenon, so I believe that this may be a first. Here goes, reading from a prepared statement:

I have let myself, my team, my family, Shagger Meares and Bunter Johnson down by my actions. The decision to let a skillful, agile and youthful Irishman play for the Victorians was a decision that I alone made. I hope that in the future the fans of the NSW Bar Hockey team can forgive this indiscretion. I would ask the media to respect my privacy whilst I undergo extensive counselling.

The Victorian and Irish collaboration were spectacular on the day and all credit to them as they played some champagne hockey resulting in a 7-0 whitewash.

Cintra Hockey Complex at Concord has not previously had the honour of ‘the Cup’, but it was certainly up to it, as was demonstrated by the hospitality of the canteen staff after the game if nothing more.

The game was followed by an entirely pleasant dinner at Dolcismo at Haberfield with the Victorians. I would like to thank the Victorians and in particular their convenor, Stuart Wood SC, for making the continuing effort to hold the fixture.

The barristers in the New South Wales team were David Pritchard SC, Bruce McManamey Geoff Warburton, Andrew Scotting, David Jordan, Bill Nield and Gary Hill, with special mention to Mim and Tim Pritchard and Sirena Scotting. Thanks also to Ganasan Narianasamy and all of the other ring-ins who played on the day.