

### Football's world order is restored

Anthony Lo Surdo SC reports on NSW Bar FC's success in 2015



The victorious NSW Bar FC team.

#### Introduction

The NSW Bar Football Club (NSW Bar FC) is open to barristers, members of the judiciary, clerks and employees of the Bar Association regardless of gender, level of ability or fitness. It currently boasts some 78 members drawn from diverse practice areas.

#### New members

In 2015 NSW Bar FC welcomed new members Justin Hogan-Doran, Mahmoud Mando, Bilal Rauf and David Larish.

#### Domain Soccer League: Bar FC dips out in the semis

NSW Bar FC defended its premiership title in the 7th successive year of the DSL competition, which was held at lunchtime between April and September in the Domain.

NSW Bar FC dominated the leaderboard for much of the home and away series but after a few disappointing draws and losses finished the series in third place, booking itself a sudden death semi-final berth for the third consecutive year against a lean outfit from Sydney Business School. Interestingly, NSW Bar FC dominated Sydney Business School in the last game of the regular season to win

3–2 and secure it semi-final spot. In his post-game review, Manager David (Sir Alex) Stanton prophesised that Sydney Business School were a ‘handy team who will prove to be a difficult opponent.’ And so it was to be.

In the knock-out match, the score was level at the end of normal time after Richard Di Michiel finished a beautiful pass from Shereef Habib SC. Sydney Business School countered with a goal in the dying seconds against the run of play. Chances to NSW Bar FC were coming thick and fast particularly after heeding Sir Alex’s advice to play the ball on the ground and quickly. Notwithstanding that dominance, Sydney Business School defended well, led by a large English contingent.

Extra time saw more chances fall NSW Bar FC’s way, however the finishing touch eluded it. A special mention should be made of the exemplary defensive work of both Ivan Griscti and Jonathan Clarke who managed to extinguish much of the opposition’s attacking play. After 60 minutes of hot and gruelling work the fate of the semi-final was to be decided on the dreaded penalty shoot-out. Unfortunately, Sydney Business School defeated NSW Bar FC 4–1 on penalties.

#### 5th Annual Sports Law Conference

On 10 October 2015 around 30 barristers convened in Melbourne at the Neil McPhee Room, Owen Dixon Chambers East, to attend the 5th Annual Sports Law Conference chaired by Anthony Klotz of the Victoria Bar.

Chris Nikou, partner, K & L Gates, and director of Melbourne Victory and of Football Federation Australia, spoke about the state of football in Australia. Some interesting facts to emerge from that presentation included that football has 7.7 million fans in Australia and is the number one sport of choice for 16–34 year olds, boasts over 1,983,000 participants in Australia of which over 630,000 are female and is the fastest growing team sport in the country.

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Scott Munn CEO Melbourne City spoke about ‘The City Group and A-League participation’. Interestingly, Melbourne City (formerly Melbourne Heart) has enjoyed a 55 per cent increase in membership since the City Group acquired the club in 2014.

Anthony Nolan QC of the Victorian Bar spoke about a number of legal issues associated with and arising from the ‘Blackest Day in Australian Sport’.

Rodrigo Vargas, ex-Melbourne Victory and Socceroo player, spoke about the challenges faced by a professional athlete after sport and the work that he is undertaking in the community including

## BAR SPORTS

**Anthony Lo Surdo SC**, 'Football's world order is restored'

with young offenders in prison.

A special thanks to Anthony Klotz, Chris Nikou, Scott Munn, Anthony Nolan QC and Rodrigo Vargas for giving generously of their time to ensure the success of the conference.

### Bar Football 'State of Origin'

Immediately following the Sports Law Conference, 45 barristers drawn from Queensland, Victoria and NSW met at the Green Gully Soccer Club at St Albans to take part in the 8th Annual Suncorp NSW Bar v Vic Bar Annual Challenge Cup and the 6th Annual Suncorp NSW Bar v Victorian Bar v Queensland Bar Annual Football Challenge Cup.

The touring squad, keen on avenging the series defeat of 2014, comprised Adrian Canceri, Rohan de Meyrick, John Harris (captain), Geoff O'Shea, Simon Philips (acting manager), Greg Watkins, Anais d'Arville, Colin Magee, Graham Turnbull SC, David (Patchaldino) Patch, Scott Goodman, Michael Fordham SC, Sebastian Hartford Davis, Richard Sergi, Oshie Fagir, Angus Lang and Anthony Lo Surdo SC. Important duties in Madrid and Barcelona (holidays) prevented Manager David (Sir Alex) Stanton from attending this year.

The first game was between a depleted Queensland team consisting of only 6 regular members (Lee Clark, Andrew Luchich, Andrew Skoien, David Purcell, Michael Hodge and David Chesterman) but ably assisted by NSW Bar FC members de Meyrick, Fagir, O'Shea, Fordham SC and Capt Harris (in goals) against a somewhat youthful and numerically strong Victorian team (consisting of Anthony Klotz (captain), Andrew Barbayannis, Jim Fitzpatrick, Matthew Albert, Hamish Austin, Christopher Archibald, Adrian Bates, Michael Biviano, Douglas James, Con Lichnakis, Alexander Solomon-Bridge,

Adrian Strauch, Gorjan Nikolovski, Cameron Charnley, Andrew Yuile, Adrian Anderson, Nicholas Phillpot, Daniel Nguyen, Lionel Wirth, Nichola Rhyder (Keeper), Angel Aleksov and Jenny Si).

Despite some individual brilliance, the Victorians were unable to convert with Queensland defeating Victoria 3 – 0 (with goals to de Meyrick and Fagir [NSW] and Lee Clark [Qld]). Best on ground for Victoria went to newcomer Angel Alexsov and for Queensland, the goal scorer, Lee Clark.

The second game was between NSW and Queensland whose numbers were swelled by Victorian barristers who had already played an hour of football in warm conditions. NSW proved too strong for Queensland running in 3 goals (Di Michiel, Philips and Lang) to nil. Special mention must be made of the rock-solid defence provided by Magee, Philips, Fordham SC, de Meyrick, O'Shea and d'Arville. Best on ground for NSW was Angus Lang and for Queensland Andrew Luchich.

The last game saw NSW backing up for a second hour of football against a rested Victorian team in 28 degree plus temperatures and with storm clouds ominously building. NSW started strong with an opening goal within minutes of the whistle to Di Michiel. Though the Victorians exhibited moments of brilliant passing football with occasional counter-attacks which sent the NSW backline scurrying to cover, very few if any serious attempts on goal materialised and the Victorian defence crumbled under the sustained pressure of the NSW mid-field shared by Lang, Watkins, Fagir and Sergi and of the forward line of Canceri, Di Michiel, Hartford Davis, and David (Patchaldino) Patch (before heroically hobbling off injured in late in the second half). Di Michiel bagged a hat-trick and

Canceri scored twice to hand NSW a resounding 5–0 victory. Best on ground for NSW was Richard Di Michiel and for Victoria, Andrew Barbayannis.

Thanks also to Peter Agardy, Graham Turnbull SC and Anthony Lo Surdo SC for officiating.

On a final note, many thanks to those whose support made the conference and the games possible. Special mention should be made of Tony Klotz from the Victorian Bar, David Chesterman of the Queensland Bar and Simon Philips, David Stanton and (captain) John Harris of the NSW Bar for organising the teams and to Tony Klotz for his fine work in putting together a successful and informative conference. Thank you also to the Victorian Bar Association for making the conference facilities available.

### Acknowledgements

NSW Bar FC acknowledges Suncorp for its support.

### The future

The Bar Football 'State of Origin' and Sports Law Conference will be held in Queensland next year before the bumper 10 year celebrations in Sydney in 2017.

Like all good football sides, NSW Bar FC will be recruiting heavily in the off-season. We look forward to welcoming new members to the squad in 2016. If you are interested in joining the team please email David Stanton (d.stanton@mauricebyers.com) to join the mailing list. If you would like to attend or speak at the 6th Annual Sports Law Conference in 2016 please email Anthony Lo Surdo SC (losurdo@12thfloor.com.au).