

## NEW SOUTH WALES BAR CRICKET

On the 20th March, 1988 a New South Wales Bar Eleven travelled to Melbourne to play in the annual New South Wales, Victorian Bar Cricket Game. The 50 over game was played at the magnificent Fitzroy/Doncaster District Cricket Ground.

Prior to departure a number of the "Old Guards" were forced to withdraw. Clarrie Stevens (discovered on last season's tour to England/Ireland) Denis Benson, David Wilkins and Malcolm Holmes presented themselves for selection.

After a pleasant flight to Melbourne, the team found itself booked into "Fawlty Towers" along St. Kilda Road. Needless to say, the wives and girlfriends were not happy!

Stirling Hamman had thrust upon himself the mantle of captaincy and without any committee decision elected to bat on what was a wet wicket. A team talk was held and these immortal utterances were recorded:-

"This is the ground where Neil Harvey learnt his cricket. We will show Gillard (the Victorian Skipper) we've got the same make-up as the Harvey brothers", whose photograph Hamman happened to be looking at as he spoke,

"Remember discipline play straight, no flashy stuff!"

The two openers were out, playing wild shots and Hamman was out for 6 attempting a square cut some distance outside his off stump when the score was 3/18. Fortunately Guy Reynolds (26) and Peter Hastings (23) were able to halt the collapse.

A seventh wicket stand of 80 by David Wilkins (41) and Peter Maiden (40) gave some respectability to the innings, however, the score of 150 was always vulnerable.

After a lengthy lunch the wicket had improved considerably and was by then perfect for batting. The bowlers, namely Hamman, King, Naughtin, Stevens, Benson and Laughton bowled quietly but without success. Only Laughton (2/5) was able to enjoy success. A number of the bowlers commented that the Victorian opening batsman, a chap by the name of Ian Dallas, who scored 88 not out not only looked like, batted like and even sounded like the former Australian opening batsman Kepler Wessels. It appears that the Victorian Bar has been able to acquire some of the recruiting skills of the Australian Cricket Board/Kerry Packer alliance, in their single-minded determination to win at any cost!

Once again we were feted to an excellent meal at the Victorian Bar Common Room. The following day some respect was regained when a number of the members were able to beat their Victorian counterparts at tennis at Gillard Q.C.'s home at Brighton. Unfortunately his swimming pool was not long enough to allow competitive swimming but an attempt was made by some members of the team who will remain nameless.

The New South Wales/Queensland game was due to be held on the first weekend in April. The game was cancelled before the Queenslanders came down, however, the dinner in their honour was still held at the University/Schools Club. This happened to coincide with President Handley's party in the adjoining room. As ever an enjoyable night was had by all. The Queenslanders management volunteered that in next year's game they would be able to put on as a team one current Sheffield Shield player, namely Andrew Courtice and one former Shield player, Roger Traves as well as a number of current grade players.

In recent years the fortunes of the New South Wales Bar cricket team have not enjoyed the success of earlier years. It has been suggested that there needs to be an injection of a number of younger players who are either currently playing or recently retired from competitive cricket. Recent social games between various chambers has resulted in a number of players being "discovered", the most recent being David Wilkins and Denis Benson. It has been suggested that there be an annual "probables" versus "possibles" game to encourage players to come forward before being selected for inter-state service. Would those who are interested or who know reluctant cricketers kindly contact Larry King, Peter Maiden, or Stirling Hamman to put their or other names forward. □ P. Maiden

## Sticky Wicket

In a recent case in the Privy Council Lord Templeman, mindful that the merits of the case were quite contrary to the interests of the Senior Counsel who was addressing him, bowled him some very insidious in-swingers during the course of his address with fairly lethal consequences. When the silk sat down, exhausted, the presiding Lord said to his junior: "Mr. Robinson, do you wish to follow?" To which the cheerful answer came: "Not without a helmet, my Lord".