

## **Golf -Bench and Bar v Services**

In excess of thirty members of the Bench and Bar engaged an approximately equal number from the services in the annual Bench and Bar v Services golf match on 17 July 1992. The event was held in very pleasant conditions over the Pagewood course of Bonnie Doon Golf Club.

An extremely enjoyable feature of the day was the presence, in addition to our own Bar, of eight members of the Bar of Northern Ireland. The Ulstermen were here on holiday partly in response to the visit of some of us to Scotland and Ireland in 1990. They were admitted to our Bar just prior to the golf match.

Despite the contribution to the Bench and Bar team by the Ulstermen, some of whom hold single-figure handicaps from clubs such as Royal Portrush, Royal Belfast and Royal County Down, we were trounced by the services 11 matches to 5 with 2 matches drawn.

The winners in both A Division and B Division were from the services, but it is pleasing to report that Peter Kite of the Bar, and Bonnie Doon, won a bunch of bananas for the long drive on the 18th, a wallop that was not only prodigious in its length but finished right in the middle of the fairway.

Bob Toner should have won a prize for the most number of excursions into the rough. Every time I saw him he seemed to be intent on killing several snakes - there could be no other explanation for the number of times he ferociously wielded an iron club in knee-high grass. One of the Irishmen commented that he thought Bwana Bob had mistaken the course for a Kenyan game park and had decided to go on safari.

Sixty-four people, some of whom had not played golf, dined in the evening in our dining room and, given the lateness of the hour when they were hosed out the door, it seems everyone had a great time.

Our Irish guests very kindly presented to the Bar Association a sterling silver medal in a handsome presentation case fitted with a silver plate onto which can be inscribed the names of winners of the trophy. The Irishmen thought that it would be appropriate for the medal to be played for on an annual, or other, basis and consideration will be given to an appropriate format for such an event.

The medal can be inspected in the "Gleeson cabinet" in the common room.

Those interested in receiving notice of future golfing events please contact Eva in the Bar Association office and ask for your name to be added to the relevant mailing list. □

John Maconachie

## **Tennis**

The Bar Association has shown its heart, yet again, in having been one of the principal sponsors in a Charity Tennis event in aid of the House With No Steps. Because of our special status, we had the opportunity to field a team of three for the tournament, which was fixed for one day in the October long weekend at the Darling Harbour Sporting Complex.

The format involved the team theoretically playing a number of games of doubles. The fourth person for each of the teams was made up by one of the number of tennis professionals who gave up their time for the charity. In so far as the Australian Indoor Tennis Titles were being held in the following week, a number of notable current professionals were present.

In any activity relating to success in court, we expect the Bar team to win. The same can be said in relation to matters on court.

WE WON! What hope did these bankers, insurers, stock brokers or real estate valuers have against the Bar's command in all courts. Well done, Mr Justice Priestley, Coombs QC and Callaway. Each was given a new tennis racquet.

Unfortunately, play in the actual tournament was washed out. Our victory occurred when we were the party named as the winner following a draw out of a hat.

In the period while the competitors were waiting for a break, John Alexander interviewed the other tennis professionals. Our President showed his potential for a future television career when in due course he interviewed John Alexander.

An adjourned tournament was conducted in a friendly and informal manner on October 16. The double default, by reason of the unavailability of Coombs QC and later Mr Justice Priestley, in no way reflected any fears on their part that their prizes had to be handed back. Jack Callaway appeared and was absolved by merely omitting to bring his prize!!

Although the afternoon was fine, our team (Stevens QC, Callaway and Powell) had to cope with almost gale-force winds. Callaway's third hit of the day, which sidelined Brad Drewett, earned him the shot of the day. Unfortunately, neither it nor anything approaching it was thereafter repeated.

Stevens QC foolishly partnered Callaway thereafter and ended up complaining of back problems, no doubt associated with carrying his partner. Powell demonstrated excellent brickwalling tactics which earned him praise from Mark Edmondson.

Importantly, it was when socialising that the wider benefits of the Bar's charitable gesture could be seen. We aced the Law Society merely by being there. Let us hope the new Bar Council continues the support of charity.

Perhaps next year the paparazzi may be present to snap a few shots. □ C J Stevens QC