

Lady Bradman Cup

By Andrew Bell

ON SATURDAY 17 APRIL 1999, for the ninth consecutive year, the Eleventh Floor Wentworth/ Selborne padded up to the collective might of Edmund Barton Chambers at Bradman Oval, Bowral. The fixture is named in honour of the late Lady Bradman who, by invitation, was present at the ground

on the occasion of the first match and presented the trophy which bears her name to the winning captain.

Edmund Barton Chambers warmed up in the customary manner with stretching exercises and a gentle jog. The Eleventh Floor warmed up at the salubrious coffee shop associated with the Bradman Museum.

Under Thos Hodgson's leadership, Edmund Barton amassed a more than respectable total of 176 from 40 overs. Notable performances included those of Hodgson himself (26), David Alexander (30 retired) (notwithstanding his call for a runner and who made that supreme athlete Arjuna Ranatunga, look credible) and the gloveless Bill Lloyd (30) whose swashbuckling knock confined Griffiths' second spell to six balls.

In the field, tyro Malcolm Holmes collected two wickets after a typically inauspicious start.

Ian Pike got part of his body to one of the two sitters which came his way. With the exception of the unhappy Pike, all members of the Eleventh Floor team bowled at least three overs including tandem father and son combinations featuring John and Nye Griffiths, Ian and Andrew Harrison, and Stephen and Daniel Climpson.

In reply to Edmund Barton's total, the Eleventh Floor comfortably reached 9 for 142 with John Atkin capturing three wickets for eighteen runs. At this time Greenwood decided to take an early shower. That disgraceful lack of faith in the prospect of a tenth wicket partnership will justly haunt him for the rest of his life. McInerney, returning to the crease after earlier retiring for 30, proceeded to contribute 36 runs in a partnership of the same total to win the match for the Eleventh Floor. He was a worthy winner of the man of the match award, a copy of the book *Bowled Warnie* presented by the author, Roland Perry, complete with peroxide sachet and nicotine patch.

The Eleventh Floor resources were depleted by the absence of one Poulos who, in the week before the match, had indicated that he could not play. He also indicated that he was unavailable. The latter observation was not understood as mere superfluity.



Andrew Bell and Ian Pike