

Cricket report

By Andrew Bell

'Bradman Cup retained: Hodgson bowled by 10 year old' read the headline of the *Southern Highlands Chronicle*, recording at once the victory by the 11 Selborne / Wentworth in the tenth match for the Lady Bradman Cup and the dismissal of Edmund Barton's skipper, the redoubtable Thos Hodgson, by Philip Durack's son, Tim, resembling the father in all but the absence of (distinguishing) grey hair.

The match was played before a small crowd of several thousand at the picturesque Bradman Oval on Saturday 6 April 2002. Hodgson called correctly and elected to bat. Alex, son of Broun QC, and Phillip Wood, a local solicitor, combined well to give Edmund Barton a solid start. John Griffiths, described in these pages some years ago now as an ageing but legendary firebrand, continued to conjure up images of Dennis Lillee at Lilac Hill in his autumnal years, opening the bowling from the Mount Gibraltar end. Recent recruit, Richard Lancaster, opened the bowling from the Burrawang end, using his height to extract minimal bounce. Rod Mater, batting at No.3 for Edmund Barton, can usually be relied upon for a solid 40. He was unfortunate, however, to encounter Philip Durack, the thinking man's Shane Warne, who delivered seven overs for a return of 3/6. Hodgson's dismissal by Durack the younger has already been alluded to and will not be dwelt upon. Bedrossian, batting at No.8, struck a useful 34 (including three sixes) as Edmund Barton powered to 9/163 off its 35 overs.

One highlight for cricket statisticians and historians of the game generally was John Atkin's cameo at No.10. It was through Atkin that Poulos, though 'overseas abroad', as he would say, played his own role in the game. Some years ago, a local rule was introduced that batsmen had to retire at 40, could not be out for a duck but, if dismissed for a duck, then had to retire at 10 unless dismissed sooner. In the summer of 1997, in what has come to be known as the Poulos Amendment, the rules were altered to permit a batsman to be thrice dismissed for zero before saying *adieu*. Atkin made



'Farmer' John Griffiths



'Copybook Holmes'



Lancaster takes strike



The 'Thos'



Three generations



Gracious in victory

history. Greenwood was the accurate bowler.

In reply, Lancaster (21) and Bell (41 retired) had a bright opening partnership although the latter, who had been seen consuming large quantities of aspirin in a desperate attempt to thin the blood and anticipate the cramps, refused to provide the stewards with a sample. Broun QC, *en route* to or from Brigadoon – it was not clear – and resplendent in a fetching lightweight tartan with Order of Australia medal proudly pinned to his breast, saw his son despatched for six from the second ball of the innings. Greenwood and Durack contributed 29 and 24 respectively, Greenwood being stumped by Hodgson off the tantalising Mater in a shot of breathtaking premeditation. Pike continued his unhappy association with this match when he was dismissed leg before wicket for four, shortly before the ball had left the bowler's hand. His major contribution to the day was with his camera.

11th floor alumnus, Emmett J., dropped by for a spot of umpiring. His judicious decision to reserve on a number of close appeals was appreciated. Just

when it looked like the 11th floor was cruising for victory, the fall of Kirk (7) and the aforementioned Pike (4) brought together Holmes (10 not out) and Griffiths (17 not out) to see it home with a number of overs to spare. Holmes sustained the usual injury.

The Senior Vice-President and media darling, Harrison SC, who had earlier taken 2/20, made a typically gracious speech accepting the somewhat tarnished trophy. Cricketing author and Edmund Barton *apparatchik*, Roland Perry, again generously donated several of his excellent cricketing books to honour good performances. Durack was man of the match and, as Meagher JA, whose profile was spotted late in the day subjecting himself to his weekend training routine in the Highlands, was heard to observe: 'As I have always said, *mens sana in corpore sano*'.