

# NSW Bar XI v Queensland Bar XI

By Lachlan Gyles

On 2 April 2005 the NSW Bar cricket team travelled to Brisbane for its annual clash with the Queensland Bar, hoping to emulate the feat of the NSW Pura Cup team the weekend before.

The team had not won north of the border since 1993, but hopes were high due to an injection of youth into the side, and the old heads from Queensland did appear to be somewhat concerned when the young New South Wales side arrived at Souths, the former home ground of GS Chappell and IA Healy.

The track looked flat and hard and Gyles had no hesitation in sending the Queenslanders into the field when given the opportunity to have first use of the wicket.

Bilinski(33) and Steele(20) got the visitors away to a steady start, but the highlight of the innings was the partnership for the third wicket between Durack(48) and Carroll(74). Durack was at his wristy best, while Carroll took to the Queensland bowlers like a Russ Hinze to a smorgasbord, helping himself to five sixes until dismissed short of a well deserved century with the score at 4/186.

Scruby(16), Stowe(6), Gyles(12 n.o.) and Neil saw the total to 223 off the allotted 40 overs, and we went to lunch better placed than we had been for many years for an elusive away win.

Queensland got off to a flyer, Drysdale and Taylor amassing 70 of the first eight overs. Carroll then removed Drysdale and Durack spun one past the wide bat of the Queensland captain Traves for Stowe to whip the bails off with the former Sheffield Shield player out of his ground. 2/94 and NSW was back in it.

Durack then removed Taylor, the stubborn Queensland opener, well caught by sub Collins, who it was said had not taken a



Padded up.

catch for years for the local side. He then came on to bowl and picked up the crucial wicket of Neate, and with Bilinski chiming in with another two, at 7/140 approaching the last ten overs, we had already booked a seat for the Callinan trophy on the Qantas flight home.

Alas, a swashbuckling 60 by debutante and Queensland no. 9 Crawford got the home side to within four runs with seven balls left. A run out through a Bilinski direct hit then set the scene for a dramatic climax, with Queensland needing four runs off the last over with nine wickets down, but to our dismay Queensland no. 11 Roney steadied the ship and was able to see the Queenslanders home with two balls to spare.

All in all a great match, followed by an equally good post match function at the home of Greg Egan in which the visitors were left to reflect on 'the one that got away'.

There's always next year...



Bilinsky watchful, Morrison SC on the move (Silks vs Juniors).