

Bar FC's year of triumphs and near triumphs

By Anthony Lo Surdo SC, Michael Fordham SC, John Harris and David Stanton

Introduction

The NSW Bar Football Club (NSW Bar FC) is open to barristers, members of the judiciary, clerks and employees of the Bar Association regardless of gender, level of ability or fitness but united in an abiding passion for the world game. It currently boasts approximately 50 members including five women drawn from diverse practice areas.

NSW Bar FC celebrated 2013 in grand style with the unveiling of its new kit to coincide with the opening match of the Domain Soccer League (lunchtime) Competition in April (DSL).

New members

In 2013, NSW Bar FC welcomed David (Sir Alex Ferguson) Stanton as its inaugural full-time manager/coach. David was one of the original members of NSW Bar FC who was reluctantly forced to retire from playing duties due to injury. He was joined by newcomers Richard di Michael, Anais D'Arville, Ivan Griscti, Mitch Lozina, Rob Munro, Rico Jedrzejczyk and Jack Tyler-Stott.

DSL

NSW Bar FC competed for the fifth successive year in the DSL competition which was held at lunchtime between April and September in the Domain. NSW Bar FC finished strongly in the home and away series booking a semi-final berth for the first time since entering the competition. It bowed out in the sudden death semi-final but not before securing third spot in its division. It was a true testament to the grit, determination and enthusiasm

with which players took to the pitch each week and proof positive of the influence of David Stanton's guiding managerial hand. Congratulations!

Third Annual Sports Law Conference

On 21 September 2013, approximately 50 barristers convened at the 12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers conference facilities in Sydney to attend the 3rd Annual Sports Law Conference. The theme for the conference, chaired by the Honourable Justice Geoff Lindsay of the Supreme Court of NSW was the topical 'Anti-Doping in Sport.' Michael Gleeson spoke about the role of the criminal law and doping in sport, John Marshall SC and Simon Philips considered aspects of the peptide inquiry announced in February 2013 whilst Graham Turnbull SC regaled us with stories (and footage) about when contact in sport becomes a crime.

The conference raised \$2,100 which was donated to Camp Quality. The funds raised will be used to help a child newly diagnosed with cancer to attend a family camp with their parents and siblings. These camps address a list of specific needs each member of the family has from diagnosis, through treatment and into remission, or in preparation for palliative care and bereavement.

A special thanks to Justice Lindsay and to each of the speakers who gave generously of their time to ensure the success of the conference and to those who attended.

Bar Football 'State of Origin'

Immediately following the Sports Law Conference, over 60 barristers drawn from Queensland, Victoria and NSW met at St Andrews Oval at the University of Sydney under clear blue skies to take part in the 6th Annual Suncorp NSW Bar v Vic Bar Annual Challenge Cup and the 4th Annual Suncorp NSW Bar v Victoria Bar v Queensland Bar Annual Football Challenge Cup.

NSW Bar FC, assisted by the home turf advantage, fielded two strong sides which seamlessly combined youth, experience and enthusiasm together with a determination to wrest the Suncorp NSW Bar v Victoria Bar v Queensland Bar Annual Football Challenge Cup from the control of the Queenslanders who had scored the Holy Grail the previous year.

St Andrews Oval has not seen such beautiful controlled football in a long, long time.

Game 1 - Queensland v Victoria

The Queenslanders, led by Johnny Selfridge comfortably disposed of a depleted but enthusiastic Victorian team led by Tony Klotz in the opening match of the 'State of Origin Series' 2 goals to nil. John Harris (NSW) generously stepped in as goal keeper for the Victorians and was kept busy, saving more than penetrated his vice-like grip on the ball.

Best and fairest gongs went to Guy Andrew for Queensland and Con Lichnakis for Victoria.

The game was ably refereed by newcomer to the whistle, John Marshall SC.



Game 2 – NSW v Queensland

The second game in the series saw NSW meet a buoyant Queensland which looked confident having just disposed of Victoria 2-0. The team was comprised of di Michael, Harris, Magee, Maghami, Griscti, (Ben) Phillips, d’Arville, Bedrossian, Mahony, (Simon) Philips(c), Munro, Free and (Matt) Graham. The mix of experience (Free) and youth (Munro) ensured that NSW ably and expertly controlled the centre of the park. Bedrossian played a ‘Rooneyesque’ role in setting up many of the plays but unfortunately had his strikes saved by the Queensland keeper (Favell) who was working overtime. Good support play was also provided by Jackson, di Michael, Ben Phillips and Maghami. The back line was rock solid with Mahony, d’Arville, Philips and Griscti ensuring NSW keeper Harris had little to do. At half time, and with NSW up 3-0, Captain Philips was heard (uncharacteristically) to suggest that perhaps NSW should ease up on the Queenslanders a little.

However, the manager (Stanton) saw it differently and the end result was a comprehensive 4-0 victory.

Man of the match went to newcomer Rob Munro for NSW and Daniel Favell for Queensland.

Graham Turnbull SC was in control of the game.

Game 3 – NSW v Victoria

Following victory over the Maroons, all that remained was for de Meyrick’s NSW team to dispose of Victoria. This team was comprised of Tyler-Stott, Kuklik, de Meyrick(c), Turnbull SC, Gleeson, Watkins, Marshall SC, (David) Jordan, Newton, Patch, Clark, Lozina, Jackson and Younan. Again this was a great game to watch with a number of talking points.

Barcelona football was on display with Tyler-Stott, Gleeson and Lozina controlling the first half with some silky exchanges. Gleeson’s persistence paid off with a great individual goal and an equally impressive celebration. Kuklik in goals saw little action as a

result of the backline consisting of de Meyrick, Younan, Turnbull SC, Marshall SC and Magee working hard. Indeed Magee was almost everywhere and but for Lozina’s dominance in the midfield and hat trick (the first ever in the State of Origin series), would have been hard to beat for man of the match. The midfield was strengthened by the presence of Jonathan Clark, Nicholas Newton and the returning to fitness of Watkins. However, the talk of the day was the front line led by Tyler-Stott, Jordan and the seasoned performer, David (Patchaldinho) Patch. Known for his ability to push the envelope, Patchaldinho ensured referee Lo Surdo SC knew where his whistle was and fully understood the intricacies of the off side rule. He was no doubt keen to enjoy the spoils as NSW put Victoria to the sword 6-1.

Best and fairest awards went to a deserving Lozina for NSW and Klotz for Victoria for a gutsy captain’s knock.

This was by far the most dominant

performance to date by NSW BAR FC who comfortably won all the silverware.

On a final note, many thanks to those whose support made for 'the most successful games ever.' Special mention should be made of Tony Klotz from the Victoria Bar, John Selfridge of the Queensland Bar and David Stanton of the NSW Bar for organizing the teams. Thanks also to Lo Surdo SC and Simon Philips in ensuring the day's success and to Marshall SC, Turnbull SC and Lo Surdo SC for officiating.

The Sports Law Conference and the State of Origin series head off to sunny Brisbane in 2014.

Law Firm & Finance Challenge Cup

A depleted Bar FC travelled to the Kings School, Parramatta, to participate in the Law Firm & Finance Challenge Cup on Sunday 10 November 2013.

A lean outfit led by Captain Harris and assisted by two budding readers, who assured us they were just about to sit the bar exams, put in a good showing against a younger and fitter opposition.

Game 1 saw Bar FC burst out of the blocks with a forfeit. The team needed little motivation to triumph 2-1 over the fill-in team from LexisNexis.

The depleted Bar FC called for reinforcements who arrived in the shape of another potential reader.

In Game 2 an over exuberant representative from Kemp Strang received a yellow card after going studs up into keeper Harris and attracted another yellow and a red card for taking out controversial striker Patchildinho with a high boot to the face which drew 2 stitches. With Patchildinho gone, the heavy responsibility of being star striker shifted to di Michael who responded by scoring all of Bar FC's goals in a 3 - 3 draw.

The third game against Gadens ended in a 1-0 loss largely due to a tired defence being offset by sensational keeping at both ends.

Bar FC then squeaked into the play offs after finishing third in its group. Magee departed for a 3 pm conference with senior counsel and the numbers dwindled.

The first round of the finals saw Bar FC drawn against Perpetual who had scored 22 goals to none against in their preliminary games.

The depleted Bar FC called for reinforcements who arrived in the shape of another potential reader. A spirited defensive effort,

masterminded by Turnbull SC (who moved to the midfield) and Jedrzejczyk saw Bar FC lose 2-0 in the first round of the play offs.

All in all, a sensational day and a fine effort.

Acknowledgements

NSW Bar FC acknowledges Suncorp, MLIG and Peter Steele for their continuing support.

The future

Like all good football sides, NSW Bar FC will be recruiting heavily in the off-season. Bar FC is also indebted to the female members of the team who made for a successful 2013 campaign. We look forward to welcoming more women to the squad in 2014. If you are interested in dusting off those boots and joining the team, please email David Stanton (d.stanton@mauricebyers.com) to join the mailing list.