



NSW v QLD Bar Cricket Match

Now in its 45th year, the annual interstate Bar cricket match between New South Wales and Queensland was played this year in Sydney on 17 March. Inaugurated by the Hon I D F Callinan AC QC and the Hon R V Gyles AO QC in 1973, the fixture has been a harmonious blend of competitiveness and camaraderie for several decades and this year's contest was no exception.

Played under a hot sun on the Main Oval at The Scots College on Bellevue Hill against the glorious backdrop of Sydney Harbour, the day was a memorable one for the hosts as NSW secured bragging rights (and the retention of Tub's Club) for another year.

Led by their new skipper, Charles Matthews, Queensland won the toss and elected to bat first. Matthews (32) and Templeton (41) made a very strong start for the visitors, compiling a 50 run opening stand against some testing bowling from Eastman and Docker. The elegant stroke play and general shot selection of the openers was of the highest order and things were looking decidedly ominous until Eastman (1-36) sent down a fast off-cutter that jagged back off the deck to hit the top of Matthews' middle stump. There was a palpable sense of elation and relief at the fall of the first wicket as Matthews was looking extremely dangerous and set for a very big score.

Templeton then combined nicely with the rookie, McCarthy (10), but an unexpected run-out by Khan, followed by a miscued pull-shot from Templeton, saw the visitors contained to 3-85 at drinks.

Khan (2-15) then combined beautifully with Gyles SC (0-18 off 7 overs), whose ac-



curate leg-breaks had the effect of pegging back the visitors' run-rate appreciably. When Williams (17), caught by Bilinsky off the bowling of Allan, and Katter (12), caught by Carroll off Khan, were denied significant scores, it fell to the redoubtable McLeod (28) to force the pace. He was eventually bowled by Docker but not before some very impressive clean hitting to take the visitors' total to 6-157.

There was some doubt about whether this was a 'par' score (given the slow speed of the outfield) but ultimately Queensland had the advantage of runs on the board and NSW had to chase them down.

Following the tea break NSW got off to a shaky start with the perennially destructive Carroll caught off the bowling of Templeton for 0 in the first over. This was by followed by

Martin for 2, who was bowled through the gate by Matthews.

Fortunately for the hosts, however, Bilinsky (58 n/o) and Docker (71 n/o) combined thereafter in a satisfying century partnership to take the game away from Queensland. With the end in sight, both batters were retired and Messrs Stowe (8), Gyles (13 n/o) and Chin (5 n/o) saw NSW home with approximately 5 overs to spare.

In the traditional post-match dinner there were some very humorous reminiscences from Neil SC, King SC and Gyles SC, among others, all of which demonstrated the pleasant conviviality and solid friendship that this fixture continues to promote.

Nicholas Bilinsky