

**GLANCING BACK – No 10 – By Noel Pullen**

**100 plus years ago -1900-25**

**BRIGHTON SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER dated 9 OCTOBER, 1915 reported**

**HURLINGHAM PARK.**

*The engineer recommended that sanitary accommodation be provided at Hurlingham Park, by the erection of two latrines, at an estimated cost of £35, and placed on the next estimates, the matter of a shelter shed to remain in abeyance.*

*Adopted.*

**BRIGHTON SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER dated 15 JULY, 1916 reported**

**HURLINGHAM PARK**

**WORKING BEE MAKES IMPROVEMENTS**

**FENCE TO BE COMPLETED TODAY**

**WORKERS WANTED.**

*About 30 East Ward citizens of Brighton rolled up their sleeves last Saturday afternoon and took part in a working bee to provide a fence around Hurlingham Park. Gentlemen whose acquaintance with pick and shovel work was limited to scratching the soil in their flower beds at home, vigorously attacked post holes, blowing and sweating and delving as though the wealth of Croesus awaited to reward their efforts to reach a depth of 2 ft. 2 ins.*

*Then the supervisor would stop all the work and yell at the workers to "get off that line", whilst he squinted along an imaginary something in space, and violently vomited orders, like a deep sea skipper in a roaring gale. The council had provided good solid red gum posts, and these had to be put up with meticulous exactitude, the only trouble being that the exactitude was arrived at in different ways by different individuals, who, whilst they got the right result, could not forbear to query each other's way of getting it. Some had levels, others had lines, and there were those who scorned any such artificial aids for their eagle eyes.*

*Then the fillers and rammers got to work, perspiring pigmies feeding loose earth with flashing shovels, whilst giants, with distressing grunts, battered it down with the butted ends of iron crowbars. The carpenters followed solemnly, laying a rail on top and driving steadily a 4-inch nail, piercing the unwilling hardwood, each with the mental incentive that every nail was one in the coffin of that insatiable greed of land agents who would rob the gentle public of their recreation area to make another record subdivision sale.*

*Towards evening the tired gang were refreshed with a bucket of beer for "tanks" and aerated waters for the "joy killers," cakes and scones, and a general all-round expressions of satisfaction at both the amount of work accomplished and the quality of it. A clayey sandstone at the start had delayed the first five holes whilst it was chipped out, a spoonful at a time, so that the 250 feet covered will probably grow to an additional 360 feet by this afternoon's effort. The feature of the gathering was the splendid good feeling prevailing among all sections.*

*All public-spirited residents are invited to attend today, and put in an hour with shovel or hammer in improving this valuable and handsome open space, to make a popular pleasure resort for the town.*

## 50 plus years ago – 1950 – 75

Member Graeme Howarth recorded the following thoughts and included some newspaper cuttings on season 1951 – 52 in a scrap book: Some of these were:

### **Graeme writes:**

*After 5 games with Brighton Union thirds I have been promoted from C Grade Cricket to A Grade. I now play with Brighton Union firsts. I also have my cap which is green with gold monogram, my captain is Vern Gladman.*

### **NEWSPAPER REPORT – dated 6 March 1952 and 13 March 1952**

#### **LAD ROUTS BRIGHTON EAST IN SEMI-FINAL**

*Toppling six East Brighton wickets for 42 runs C. (sic) Howarth, fourteen year old slow leg spinner, put his team (Brighton Union) in a good position in their semi-final match of the Brighton District competition.*

*East Brighton opened with a sound partnership, but Howarth soon started the collapse. He is imperturbable, maintaining a good length although being hit, a big future is predicted for him.*

*Brighton Union 342 (Gray 116, Hindson 55, Gladman 55, L. Polson 28, Smith 23) defeated Brighton East 135 (G. Howarth 6/42) and 1/3*

### **Graeme writes:**

*Grand Year with Brighton Union (1<sup>st</sup> year 1951-52). Playing in Semi Final and Grand Final were the best games I have played. This is my first year at Brighton Union. I have been able to win the Club's best under 18 player for year 1951-52.*

*Grand Final – Gas Corporation – First innings 383 (G. Polson 4/45, L. Polson 4/114) defeated Brighton Union 193 and 7/204.*

### **Graeme writes – Saturday 4-11 October 1952**

*After coming off the field on Saturday we had to elect a new captain and vice captain. We had Vern Gladman proposed but he immediately withdrew, so did Bill Smith and then Bill Bach was elected captain and Vern Gladman vice captain.*

*Match 2 - 18 – 25 October 1952*

*Brighton Union First innings 112, Elwood 4/49 – draw, game abandoned because of rain. We were beaten by rain.*

*Elwood was not a very impressive bunch. Happy go-lucky and also are hard hitters.*

*Only one decent chap Rose (slow bowler) who I was talking to he said that it was good to see a young chap bowling slows.*

### **Graeme writes – Saturday 1 – 8 November 1952**

*Kooyong Road Methodist First innings 183, Brighton Union 252 (Vern Gladman 101 top score)*

*Kooyong Road are a very keen side but are spoiled by wicketkeeper. Vern's hundred and one was a great hand and Len McAliece opened his shoulders and scored 3 sixes. Bill Smith batted very well. Bill Bach caught the mumps and could not play.*

**Graeme writes – Match 5 – 29 November & 6 December 1952**

*Kevin Miller was brought into the team this week. Ten catches were dropped from my bowling this week.*

**NEWSPAPER REPORT – 1952**

*Young Hurlingham opening batsman J. Polson was selected to represent Victorian Junior X1 to tour South Australia during Christmas holidays for interstate carnival matches.*

*This is the first Brighton District player to be selected for a Victorian Junior X1. May he uphold the name of the Brighton District Cricket Association.*

*We wish him and the Victorian team every success during the carnival.*

**Graeme writes – season 1953-54**

*Before play today Vern Gladman was elected captain of the first eleven and George Polson vice captain. I think that George will make an excellent captain in place of Vern later on. Alby Palmer was elected second eleven captain and Jimmy Polson third eleven captain. Alex Burrows is a very nice man who is very quiet. He made 48 runs.*

**NEWSPAPER REPORT – Date unknown**

**Bowlers 5/8 in Ten Overs**

*Les Polson took five wickets for eight runs in ten overs he bowled on Cup Day to give Brighton Cricket Association a devastating win against Elsternwick. Other Brighton bowlers were in deadly form.*

*Elsternwick won the toss sent Brighton to bat on a rain affected wicket.*

*Brighton lost early wickets and it was left to young Howarth and captain Kennedy to take the total to 139 at which Brighton closed.*

*Hamford and McPherson opened to a battery of fast bowling.*

*Les Polson 5/8, Walsh 1/2, Tolley 1/5 soon dismissed the Elsternwick team for a feeble 25 runs.*

*So ends Graeme's thoughts.*

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**CMCA – HERE WE COME**

At the 54<sup>th</sup> annual meeting held in the tennis pavilion, Hurlingham Park on 24 July 1961 the Club members voted to field two teams in the City of Moorabbin Cricket Association thus ending Union's first eleven dominance of the BDCA.

Union's power and glory days ended with its transfer to the CMCA as it was runners up to Bentleigh Methodist in A grade.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CMCA by RUSSELL MOORE



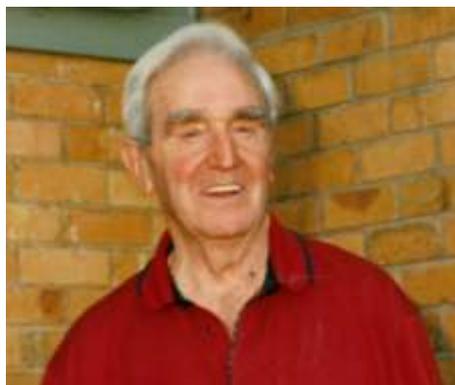
**Russell Moore**

### Continued from Glancing Back No.9

#### 1980's

The 1980's provided several challenges. A rationalisation of government primary and secondary schools throughout Victoria saw many ovals sold to developers. With the loss of this open space and other sporting bodies wanting to encroach on our traditional playing fields, secured by Harry and his Executive back in the 1950's, the Executive had a constant battle with Councils to retain grounds.

In March 1985 President Ray Longmuir passed away, a superb administrator to whom local cricket owes a great debt. In his honour the senior A grade competition is renamed Longmuir Shield. Long time serving junior chairman, Lloyd Champion, was elected to the Presidency a position he held from 1984-1990. Lloyd's contribution to our Association is recognised with our Club Champion shield named in his honour. Mike Massey was elected to the position of Junior Chairman 1984-1993. His contribution to our Association is recognised with the U16A grade shield named in his honour. In 1980 joining our Executive was John Quiney. John held the Treasurer's position from 1981-2004, his contribution to our Association is recognised with both Life membership of the CMCA and Umpires association(1998) as well as the senior C grade shield named in his honour.



**Lloyd Champion**

On the playing field the decade was dominated by East Sandringham Boys Club winning five A grade / Longmuir shields.

### **1990's**

At the 1990 AGM John "Jumbo" Park was elected President, a position he will hold until 2003. His contribution to our Association is recognised with the F grade shield named in his honour. By 1991 the Association had forty clubs with eleven senior grades comprising 122 teams and eight junior grades comprising 79 teams. The emergence of Private School cricket on Saturday mornings threatened the existence of our clubs. The Executive took the step of introducing Friday night and Sunday morning options, taking almost the entire decade for this to settle down.



**John Park**

Mid-way through this decade John Kelly, who was previously Secretary of the Umpires Association, would join our Executive as Secretary 1995-2009. His contribution to our Association is recognised with both Life membership of the CMCA and Umpires Association (1988). Throughout this period publicity officer Noel Pullen's expertise allowed us unrivalled coverage and promotion of CMCA events in the Leader newspaper. His contribution to our Association is recognised with having the senior D grade shield named in his honour.

On the playing field the 1990's was dominated by the Brighton Union club winning four Longmuir Shields.



**Union captain Alex Gerdan accepts the 1996-97 Longmuir Shield from Mrs Hazel Longmuir, wife of the late Ray Longmuir, whom the shield is named after.**

**To be continued next edition**

## **25 years ago plus – 1975 – 2000**

### **WOMEN'S ELEVEN 1981 to 1987**

In 1981 the Club decided to enter a Women's team in The Victorian Women's Cricket Association (VWCA) South C Section. Legendary Club coach Jack Vollugi was appointed coach and Dirk Caarels team manager followed by Peter Marcollo and Jim McNally

The girls, only one of which had previously played the game, swept all before them to finish runners-up. The team played its home games at Hurlingham Park number two ground.

***MOORABBIN STANDARD NEWSPAPER dated 25 AUGUST 1981 reported***

#### ***Co-ed cricket***

*Brighton Union Cricket Club will become the first club in Brighton to introduce a women's team.*

*Girls of all ages are welcome to contact club secretary Noel Pullen or club coach Jack Vollugi for details.*

*Alternatively girls may like to attend a meeting to be held at Hurlingham Park at 7pm on Thursday 27 August.*

The first side to represent the Club on 3 October 1981 against McKinnon in batting order was Dianne Keblys (later Blair), Allison Good, Chris Sadler (later Gurry) (Captain), Erika Lighthart (later Kreymborg), Jenny Keamy, Jan Kreymborg, Melisa Deferos, Cheryl McDonald, Lisa Caarels, Sue Jones (later McNally) and Leonie Keblys.

***SANDRINGHAM BRIGHTON ADVERTISER NEWSPAPER reported on 7 October 1981***

*Brighton Union Cricket Club's women's team started the season on a winning note when it crushed McKinnon by 98 runs last Saturday.*

*Batting first, the Union girls amassed 6/142 and were shown the way by skipper Christine Sadler who scored a bright 53.*

*Opener Alison Good made a solid 19 and Erica Lighthart finished 21 not out.*

*Union's bowlers applied constant pressure to dismiss McKinnon for only 44.*

*Erica Lighthart took 3/29, "Zoe" Deferos 2/10 and Sue Jones 2/6 in a fine team effort.*

**The side performed remarkably well during the year winning eight of its matches to finish runners up to Monash University.**

### **CHRIS SADLER'S GREAT SEASON**

Chris Sadler finished with a remarkable 648 runs for the season and an average of 46.28 with a top score of 103 in the Grand Final. Other good scores by her during the season included 94, 79, 68, and 56. During the season the Club seriously considered playing Chris in the men's sides but the rules of the VWCA would not permit it. She was also the Club's inaugural delegate to the VWCA and served in that position for two seasons.

Her husband Mark Gurry was delegate to the Association from 1983 to 1985 followed by Darren Braybrook then Peta O'Farrell.

The bowling honours for the season were taken out by Sue Kreymborg who started playing with the side in round three taking 29 wickets for 313 with an average of 10.79. Her best performances were 6/44 in the Grand Final, 5/12 and 5/62. Jan Kreymborg also starred with the ball capturing 5/17 from seven over's against East Sandringham.

Wicket keeper Lisa Caarels finished with a remarkable 14 catches, 3 stumpings and 3 run outs for the season and Jan Kreymborg and Sue Jones both took eight catches.

Other players in the inaugural season were Sharon Dealy (later Adams), G. Lozina, Linda Carter (later Head) and T. Kelliher.

Overall the side won six matches and lost four to finish in the finals, defeated South Caulfield in the semi-final but unfortunately lost to Monash University in the Grand Final.



**Chris Sadler**



**Women's Eleven 1981-82**

**Back Row: Erica Ligthart, Jan Kreymborg, Allison Good, Melina Defteros, Linda Carter, Sharon Dealy, Diane Keblys**

**Front Row: Sue Jones, Sue Kreymborg, Christine Sadler, Lisa Caarels, Jack Vollugi (Coach)**



**The Girls in action**

## GRAND FINALISTS

The following season 1982-83 the side remained in C section and after losing the first match ironically to McKinnon won every match after that until our defeat by a very professional South Hawthorn in the Grand Final.

The side hit up in excess of 200 runs in seven innings with the highest score being 5/296 in round eleven against McKinnon.

The star with the bat was again Chris Sadler who hit up 569 runs at an average of 40.64, highest score of 123 against South Hawthorn in round 4 and also scores of 79, 78 and 72.

This season she had plenty of good team mates Jan Kreymborg average of 33.53, best score 64 against South Caulfield in the semi-final, Nerida Hough 31.88, best 75 and Erica Lighthart 21.08, best 60.

Jan Kreymborg was the star with the ball finishing with an average of 11.17 capturing five wickets on four occasions in the season. Nerida Hough was runner up with an average of 15.38 and Sue Jones third with 16.23.

Janet McLaren was the new wicket keeper and finished with the remarkable statistics of 9 catches, 9 stumpings, 3 run outs and 1 throw out. Janet also won the VWCA competition award. Erica Lightart 9 catches and 2 run outs, Chris Sadler 9 catches, Jan Kreymborg 7 catches and a throw out and Peta O'Farrell 5 catches and a run out were the other stars with their hands. Jim McNally became team manager a position he held until the clubs final game.



Season 1983-84 saw the Club promoted to South B. During the season we won five matches and lost six to miss the finals for the first time. The club lost six points due to a registration error.

Again Chris Sadler, who married men's player Mark Gurry during the season, topped the batting with 399 runs at an average of 39.9, with her highest score of 110 against Frankston. Sandra Kreymborg finished runner up with 31.6 and her sister Jan was third with 29.3.

### **SUE McNALLY'S RECORD HAUL**

The bowling honours were taken out by Sue Jones who also married during the year to Club legend Kevin McNally and finished with an average of 9.87 and also took the record women's bowling performance of 8/52 from 11 overs against Mt Eliza. Other good performers included Kaye O'Sullivan (later Adams) who finished with a season total of 6/49, Erika Ligthart 23 wickets, Melisa Evagora 19 wickets and Peta O'Farrell 16 wickets.

The star in the field was again Janet McLaren who made 9 stumpings, 7 run outs and took 3 catches and Jan Kreymborg with 8 great catches.



**Back Row: Sue McNally, Melissa Evagora, Sandra Kreymborg, Sharyn Adams, Peta O'Farrell.  
Front Row: Janet McLaren, Jenny Fox, Chris Gurry (Captain), Jim McNally (Manager), Jan Kreymborg,  
Erica Ligthart.**

The side continued in B grade in 1984 -85 season and won seven games for the season but lost the semi-final to Bentleigh to finish in third position.

Sharon Adams (nee Dealy) took over as captain for the rest of the season in late 1984 with Jan Kreymborg as vice captain. Jan became captain at the start of the 1985-86 season.

The side amassed its highest score ever of 3/307 against the hapless Mt Martha, Chris Gurry (nee Sadler) making yet another ton with 129.

### TANYA SOMERTON SMASHES RECORD 204 NOT OUT

New player Tania Somerton won the batting averages with the remarkable average of 64.6. Her highest score was a record 204 not out against Frankston with other good scores being 88, 71 and 55. Chris Gurry was runner up with an average of 31.4 and Peta O'Farrell third with 25.2.

Tania Sommerton won the bowling averages taking 34 wickets for 375 runs at an average of 11.02 with a best performance of 6/16 against Parkdale.

Sandra Kreyborg was the star in the field taking 9 catches 3 run outs and a stumping.

### THE DECLARATION NO.17 (OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CMCA) DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1985 REPORTED

## Girls play the game with gusto

By Daryl Pitman

As has been underlined by the recent successful women's test series in Australia, the gentleman's game of cricket is being increasingly invaded by the fairer sex.

Many CMCA clubs run women's teams, including Brighton Church of Christ, Brighton Union, E.S.B.C., Hampton, Mackie, Moorabbin, Nth. Caulfield-Glenhuntly, Omega and South Caulfield.

Sharyn Adams, who is captain of Brighton Union's Ladies team, says that it's quite a competitive field. "We play to win", she insists.

In an attempt to find out just how serious these girls are, *The Declaration* attended a training session at Brighton Union on a day of over 30°.

The girls were handling fielding practice with the aplomb of champions and taking catches the Australian team would be proud of.

The Brighton Union girls have mainly been formed from girlfriends and wives of players.

This is not the case with many other teams. The treasurer of the Victorian Women's Cricket Association, Mrs. Anne Morton, told us that many teams are made up of girls who play for the love of the game and not because their boyfriend or husband is a cricketer.

Is it an advantage for a women's team to be backed by an entrenched men's club? "It certainly helps socially and financially to be backed

by an established club", says Mrs. Morton.

Sharyn Adams says that learning the rules can sometimes be a problem with some of the younger girls but admits the fellas are invaluable with their help.

"The girls watch TV cricket just as keenly as the guys do", she laughed.

But some things are not the same as in men's cricket. For instance, Sharyn took over the captaining of her team after her predecessor became pregnant! However, when short of members for the first game after Christmas, former captain Chris Gurry filled in and made 128 not out in 30° heat. Not bad for a pregnant ex-captain.

And what do the men think of having a women's team in the club?

Omega's Phil Taranto reckons it's alright. "Our women's team is in its second season and has given our social activity a 50% boost", he enthused.

"The girls bring their husbands and boy friends to the club, so you have an extra ten or fifteen fellas in the rooms after a game".

And the final word on this saga of equality of the sexes comes from Sharyn Adams:

"We get well looked after by the fellas with afternoon teas", she confided.

Well, at least they won't get pregnant half-way through the season!

Season 1985 – 86 saw the Club promoted to section A East. We had a mixed season winning 5 matches, losing four and having a draw and a tie in the other two matches to just miss the four.

The team hit up 318 against Wantirna South in round four beating its previous highest score and dismissed its opponents for only 64 in its first innings and 40 in its second dig. Tania Sommerton smashed a brilliant 161 well supported by Peta O'Farrell with 59. The bowling honours were taken by Tamie Neale who snared 5/10.

Naturally batting honours for the season were taken out by Tania Sommerton who finished with an average of 33.8. Tamie Neale had an average of 26.4, highest score of 103 and Sandra Kreymborg 23.2, highest score of 71.

Tamie Neale won the bowling taking 25 wickets at an average of 12.1 with Tania Somerton runner up with 18 wickets at an average of 13.3. Sandra Kreymborg led the way in the field with 9 catches.

### **ENGLISH TEAM VISITS AUSTRALIA**

During this season the English women's team visited Australia and Kevin McNally and Noel Pullen were allocated to operate the scoreboard during a match at the lake oval, South Melbourne. The match was being televised by the ABC and to be honest the efforts of Kevin and Noel to keep the scoreboard up to date was abysmal to say the least so the ABC gave up showing the board on the television. To rub salt into their wounds we were not exactly made welcome at the after match function.

On another occasion Mark Gurry , Ian Collins, David Wingfield and Noel Pullen were allocated to work at the Albert Ground during the English tour and the organisers of the match didn't know what to do with four males so they got them to sell raffle tickets for a bat featuring the signatures of the competing teams.

### **FINAL SEASON**

The final season of the women's team was 1986-87.

The team was again entered in A East and won four matches, drew one and lost six to miss the finals. The club lost a number of players for various reasons including marriage and having families and some to higher grades.

Tamie Neale won the batting averages at 31.0 with her highest score of 120 against Mt Eliza. Chris Gurry returned with an average of 24.0 and a highest score of 79 not out.

Tamie Neale picked up the trifecta taking out the bowling averages with 34 wickets at an average of 13.85 and four catches the most of any players for the season.

So ended what can only be described as a fantastic period for the Club.

Although the women's team was only part of the club for some six seasons the Club has never had more enjoyable social functions. It was difficult to even get into the rooms following Saturday's matches.

The only problem was that the large majority of the women married, particularly to men members of the Club, and had children which led to the demise of the team.

Other women who played with the club during its six seasons were Jenny Fox, top score of 57, Amanda Smith 25 not out, Georgina Smith 18, Diane Maher (later Adams) 28 not out, Amanda Smith 17 not out, Cathy Convey 17 not out, Julie Hooper 24, Sue Wilson 23, Janine Wilson 52 not out, Denise Darby 14, Gwenda Foster, Genevieve Cash, Joy Wilson, Rebecca Barry, Kathy Fitzroy, Kim Hesline, Webster, Jan Batchelor, M Carroll, T. Boutland, L McDermott, Lynne Miles and Paula Anderson.

Some other highlights were:

1. Sue McNally (nee Jones) became the first woman to serve on the Club committee not as a women's representative but as a general member and made a magnificent contribution.

2. An interesting aside was at a particular annual general meeting of the Club to discuss the women's team the only positive suggestion put forward at the meeting was from Jenny Fox was for the Club to sell wine from bottles rather than casks and cask wine has never been sold at the Club since.

Hopefully sometime in the future there maybe an opportunity to revive a women's team.

## **10 years ago plus 2000 onwards**

### **2000-01 Season**

**MOORABBIN STANDARD NEWSPAPER dated 11 APRIL 2000 reported**

#### **CMCA SCRIBE PULLEN PULLS UP STUMPS**

*Leader newspaper's long time City of Moorabbin Cricket Association correspondent Noel Pullen has put the cap on his pen.*

*For more than 20 years the affable Pullen kept readers informed of all the happenings in the competition.*

*His copy was concise and always on time, making him a favourite of sports editors.*

*Former sports chief Russell Holmesby said last week "When dealing with other sporting organisations and clubs, I always used Noel Pullen as an example of somebody who contributed his material accurately and before deadline." Here Pullen reflects on his time as the CMCA's pressman.*

*Being involved in the local community, I tried not to be controversial and avoided reporting arguments and fights that may have taken place in games or criticism of teams or umpires.*

*But that didn't stop me receiving abuse. I remember one day when a player wanted to knock me out after I had written that a club was 'lowly'.*

*He thought I was referring to the players as lowly types but he calmed down when I told him I was referring to the club's position on the ladder.*

*One of my greatest challenges was to suppress my allegiance to my own club, Brighton Union, of which I am secretary.*

*If Union did get a better coverage than the other clubs it was only because I knew more about what happened in those matches.*

*It used to frustrate me that clubs didn't give me sufficient information so I could provide them with a more detailed coverage.*

*The most co-operative club was Highett West, through its late secretary Warren Olle.*

*He would come down to Hurlingham Park every Saturday night, check his club's reports and give a summary of each of Highett's matches. He was a wonderful chap.*

*So was former Brighton Union coach, the late Jack Vollugi, who assisted in sorting all the reports for many years. More recently club member Phillip Arnold has helped.*

*I have nothing but the greatest admiration for CMCA secretary John Kelly, who works tirelessly in preparing the reports for Southern FM.*

*As for players, I have no hesitation in saying that Con Gorozidis is the best I've seen in the competition.*

*Some old-timers around the grounds are of the opinion he's the best in the history of the competition.*

*He is a brilliant all-rounder, an outstanding batsman, bowler and fieldsman.*

*I may be biased but I consider the best side to be Union's premiership X1 from last season.*

*It included Con Gorozidis and his brother George: the four Grants, Peter and Andrew, both of whom played District cricket, their brother Tony, one of the best fieldsmen I've seen, and former St.Kilda champion footballer David.*

*Other players were big fast bowler Paul Edwards, another outstanding fieldsman in Owen Morros, great opening batsman Danny Frew, and fine all-rounders in captain Alex Gerdan and vice-captain Matthew Britten, both of whom played District cricket. The most remarkable thing is that eight of the players graduated from Union under-age teams coached by Jack Vollugi.*

*Of the other clubs East Sandringham has been by far the best.*

*Kim Pitt is a fine leader and all-round player and with players such as Graham Bell, Leigh Head, Graham Butler, David and Phil Pledger, Bruce Feben, Peter Cafarella and Dean Edmunds at the club at various periods East has produced many formidable teams.*

*Other players I hold in high regards are Craig Hitchcock, Peter Milner, Fitzroy Crozier, Cedric Jansz, Humphrey Hughes, Mark Casey, Marty Lyons, Steve May, Glen Holland, Dav Whatmore and Tim Caffery.*

Season 2000/01 was undoubtedly one of the worst in the club's history, with all four senior teams finishing near the bottom of their grade. The retirement of a number of experienced players in the last couple of years has weakened our playing stocks forcing many players to be selected in sides above their true level.

New Coach Neil Vorbach was enthusiastic and did a marvellous job in coaching the players.



There were encouraging performances of juniors playing in our senior teams. James Gaynor and Stuart Bell won promotion to the First Eleven and acquitted themselves well and Col Taranto gave other youngsters in the Seconds every opportunity to shine.

Our junior section had a successful season with managers Owen Morros and Simon Russell leading the Under Sixteen team into the finals for the first time since 1988-89. Unfortunately the boys were defeated after making a big score in the semi final, but many players showed significant improvement over the year.

Both our Friday and Saturday Under Fourteen sides suffered from a shortage of players but showed true Union spirit to win the majority of their matches. The Saturday team reached the Grand Final but were narrowly beaten in a low scoring match. Under Fourteen managers Michael Novis, Saul Siritzky and Michael Cove did a great job. As with the Under Sixteens, many players made spectacular progress over the season.

A fairly inexperienced Under Twelve side battled to win games but were competitive in most matches.

Trophy winners included Danny Frew (First Eleven) batting average 44.3 and Mario Vucko (Third Eleven) batting average of 50.9. Danny Hughes had a good double in the Under Fourteen Green side with a batting average of 43.4 and a bowling average of 6.5.

On a personal note I record my appreciation for the testimonial dinner organised by the club.

Over 150 people attended the function at the Mordialloc function centre and appreciative speeches were delivered by Kevin McNally, Lloyd Champion, John Jones, Adrian Fisher and Peter Cook.