

GLANCING BACK – No 13 – By Noel Pullen

100 plus years ago -1900-25

BRIGHTON SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER dated 12 MARCH, 1921 reported

HURLINGHAM PARK.

Interviewed regarding the question of the sale of Hurlingham Park frontages Mrs. Bleazby said she could not understand the Mayor's attitude. It seemed very strange to her. When the negotiations for the sale were being conducted she had hoped that she had made it clear to Cr. Pullman that she would never have entertained any idea of parting with the 12 ½ acres had there not been a direct understanding that the whole area was to be maintained as a recreation reserve.

It was all very well to argue that when the contract of sale had been complete all her rights to the Park had lapsed. That might be true from a legal point of view. All the same the council must have known the reserve consideration under which it acquired the land.

That she had accepted £1,800 for a property which if placed on the market even eight years ago, would have brought considerably more, was further evidence that on her part, at all events, there was something more than a mere commercial transaction involved, other questions than that of making a profit on the transfer.

Mrs. Bleazby added that when her father, the late Sir Thomas Bent, bought the land he had intended to present it to the Town of Brighton as a recreation reserve. While he did not make that intention known publicly, she and other members of the family were aware of it.

50 plus years ago – 1950 – 75

FIRSTS AND SECONDS IN THE BDCA FIRST GRADE

On 16 October 1957 the BDCA promoted our second eleven to the first grade which resulted in the Club having two teams in the top grade.

The third eleven were promoted to the second grade and a new fourth eleven side was placed in the third grade.

It was also deemed that the teams be known as Brighton Union first eleven, second eleven, third eleven and fourth eleven to allow the present permit rules to operate.

It was also decided that the points allocated for the first round match between Hurlingham and Central be deleted and a match between our second eleven and Central be played and that any player from our first eleven and third eleven that played in round one would not be eligible for that match.

THE ACKNOWLEDGE LEADERS

This season 1956-57 saw Union's first eleven second successive premiership and the adoption of the clubs motto "Facile Princeps" – "The Acknowledged Leaders"

Union's best players in the grand final were Brian Jones, Len McAliece, John Polson, Les Polson, Harry Smith, Peter Smith and Les Woods.

Brian Jones again won the batting with an average of 44.5 but George Polson carried away the bowling trophy having the remarkable average of 7.8. This also saw George win the BDCA award. Club Champion was dour bat Harry Smith whose top score for the season was 103 not out.

Other century makers for the season included Brian Jones 112 and 106, Bill Ould 114 and 105 not out, Les Woods 100 and a massive 209 by Graham Hamilton for the Under Sixteen Greens.

George Polson won the BDCA First grade bowling average and Graham Hamilton the second grade bowling average with an average of 6.6 and the best under 18 years trophy.

Charlie "Butch" Somerton won the Under Sixteen bowling award whilst John Polson captained the BDCA Under 23 team with Peter Smith, Bill Ould and David Horman representing Union under manager Les Polson.

25 years ago plus – 1975 – 2000

The Year That Was – 1982-83.

Round 1.

The opening round saw Brighton Union's First XI drawn against a Bailey Park side which had been weakened by the loss of a number of seasoned campaigners including John Lilley and Phil O'Callaghan.

Union boasted its best attack for some years with the return of Jeff Hayes and Con Gorozidis and its batting line-up included Western Australian recruit Paul Welsh.

Having been sent in to bat Bailey Park was quickly in trouble against Union's pace duo of David Blair and Con Gorozidis with the former providing the initial break-through when he clean bowled Col Lilley for a duck with the score only 3. A rapid succession of wickets followed as Bailey Park collapsed in only 18.3 overs to be all out for a paltry 53 runs including 19 sundries. Blair and Gorozidis took 4/26 and 6/20 respectively.

Sensing the prospect of outright points Union's batsmen set about establishing a first innings advantage prior to stumps on the first day. We declared at 5/126 after 36 overs with Paul Welsh scoring 40 in his debut and Brad Kreymborg a well compiled 36.

Bailey Park again struggled early in its second innings and were only 12 runs for the loss of one wicket when bad light brought play to a close with 8 of the possible 10 overs completed. It was spinner Jeff Hayes who provided the break when he trapped Bailey Park skipper Keith Ronaldson leg before.

On the second day Bailey Park resumed its second innings still 61 runs in arrears and fared little better than it had on the first day. On this occasion Jeff Hayes was the wrecker taking 7/36 from 17.1 overs to send the opposition reeling for only 96 runs giving it a lead of a mere 23.

With Con and Greg Gorozidis opening the batting Union secured outright victory by scoring 34 runs without loss in only four overs.

And so Union's 75th year had begun in ideal fashion with the First XI sitting on top of the "A" Grade ladder.

Round 2.

Tragedy struck during the ensuing week when David Blair seriously injured a knee at training. This unfortunate mishap saw the recall of stalwart Peter Cook to the senior ranks for the second round clash against East Caulfield, when typical October weather washed out the first day's play the match was reduced to a 34 overs contest which saw Union record a 5 wicket victory with six overs to spare.

Round 3.

With David Blair still sidelined and Con Gorozidis absent on a footballers' interlude in Hawaii, the side faced its first real challenge in Round 3 when it met the formidable Mackie combination. Gorozidis' place was filled with the return of the talented Tony Grant.

In its preceding match Mackie had defeated reigning premiers East Sandringham and were riding high. After winning the toss and batting first Union did little else right and put in probably its worst display in modern times to be dismissed for only 91.

The only semblance of positive batting came from Mark Olsen and Tony Grant who scored 30 and 19 respectively. This was a most disappointing performance, particularly as top position on the ladder hinged on the outcome of the match.

A more spirited display by our bowlers and fieldsmen the following week saw Mackie's top order collapse to be 5/34 in pursuit of our meagre total. The rout could not, however, be sustained and the opposition recovered to gain the first innings points without further loss and were ultimately dismissed for 150. Jeff Hayes returned the figures of 5/52 from 20 overs.

Round 4.

Having now surrendered our position at the head of the ladder, we visited Virginia Park knowing that a victory was of paramount importance to our chances of regaining ascendancy over East Sandringham.

Another cruel blow was struck shortly after Virginia Park had commenced its innings after winning the toss. In the third over of the innings Con Gorozidis broke down with a groin injury and had to retire from the attack. On its small and irregularly shaped ground the opposition gained the initiative to add 139 runs for the first 3 wickets but could not take full advantage of its fine start and lost its remaining 7 wickets for 97 to be all out for 236. Jeff Hayes was again the mainstay of our attack, capturing 6/84 from his 23 overs.

Union started soundly in the chase for this formidable target with openers Graham Adams and Paul Welsh adding 60 runs. A slump followed, however, with four further wickets falling for the addition of only 63 runs.

An 88-run partnership for the sixth wicket between Con Gorozidis and David Young took us within reach of victory at 6/211. Gorozidis compiled 93 in an innings deserving of a century and Young went on to score 42 not out and steer the side safely to victory with a total of 7/252 at the close. David, incidentally, was playing in his first "A" Grade match for the Club, having joined us from Brighton East at the start of the season.

Round 5.

Round 5 brought with it the opportunity to avenge last season's Grand Final result and to also regain top spot on the ladder. Batting first after winning the toss we batted steadily throughout the allotted 65 overs but failed to seize the initiative at any stage. We were restricted to 179 runs for the loss of 9 wickets at the compulsory close. This was due as much to the lack of positive aggression in our batting as to the steady and persistent bowling of

our opponents, supported by their defensive but consistent fielding. Indicative of this was our teatime score of 3/64 from 35 overs.

Aided by some lacklustre fielding, East Sandringham slowly but surely overhauled our score to reach 6/183 with 2 overs to spare. Another opportunity had gone begging but this was to be our last defeat for the season and in some ways possibly provided the impetus for our premiership challenge. I for one was firmly convinced by the events of this game that our rivals were by no means invincible.

Round 6.

Bentleigh A.N.A. were confronted with a union combination very much on the rebound. Peter Head had returned to the team after a two game absence due to illness but Dave Blair remained sidelined having faced the surgeon's knife.

A.N.A. made the fatal mistake of inviting us to bat first and led by Graham Adams in peak form with 85 we amassed 9/284. There were several other supporting contributions one of which was the pleasing glimpse of form shown by Peter Head in scoring 20. Our opponents were never in the hunt the following week and were dismissed for 159 with 55 of these coming from the eighth and ninth wickets.

Thus we entered the mid-season interval with a crushing victory behind us but still trailing East Sandringham on the ladder by 2 premiership points.

Round 7.

The resumption of the season saw us visit Bentleigh Uniting for a one day fixture limited to 30 overs. With Graham Adams and Con Gorozidis unavailable Greg Gorozidis was utilised in the opening batting role and got us off to a flying start scoring a whirlwind 66. We failed to capitalize on this however with a wastage of wickets through four run outs and some senseless batting seeing us dismissed for 169 after being 3/126.

David Blair had been recalled to the side after recovering from his knee operation and resumed his position in the front line of our attack. Our opponents started slowly but steadily towards their target of 170 which represented a run rate of 5 per over. When Ian Longmuir came to the crease with the score at 3/93 we held a lead of 76 runs with 10.5 overs remaining. After a further 2.5 overs at a cost of 22 runs Jeff Hayes was brought into the attack but conceded 9 runs without result. The following over from Dave Blair saw the addition of another 9 runs. On the fifth ball of his next over Hayes struck a vital blow when he had Longmuir well caught by Paul Welsh for 36. The fourth wicket partnership had yielded 52 runs from 6.5 overs and the margin stood at only 25 runs with 25 balls to be bowled. Just when it was needed Dave Blair produced a wicket maiden leaving Bentleigh Uniting a target of 25 runs from 18 balls. Hayes' next over conceded 6 runs and a leg bye to reduce the target to 18 runs off 12 balls. Blair broke through again when he hit the stumps for the third time in the match with the second ball of his new over. Bentleigh Uniting was 6/153 needing 17 runs from 10 balls. Blair's remaining 4 balls cost 7 runs to take the score to 6/161. Six balls remained and we had a bare 7 runs to play with.

The first ball removed opener Tony Court stumped by Nester Nezeritis for 57 with the score 7/161. Our opponents edged closer with 2 runs from the next ball. Four balls remained our opponents needed 6 to tie and 7 to win with 3 wickets still in hand.

In a sensational finish Bentleigh Uniting failed to get any closer as Jeff Hayes removed the next three batsmen from consecutive deliveries to give us victory by 6 runs with one ball of the match remaining.

Our victory had been achieved under intense pressure against an opponent which was a genuine contender for a finals berth and was made more meritorious by the absence of two regular players in Graham Adams and Con Gorozidis. Bowlers and fieldsmen alike had come through a testing and vital match with honours.

The highlights were the successful comeback of Dave Blair in taking 3/73 from 17 overs and the magic of Jeff Hayes who captured 5/24 including a hat-trick from only 23 deliveries.

Round 8.

We journeyed to West Bentleigh and after losing the toss and batting second, scored a hollow first innings win by 5 wickets.

After dismissing West Bentleigh for 176 in 47 overs there appeared to be some possibility of gaining outright points but our quest for quick runs suffered an early setback when we lost our first 2 wickets for only 10 runs. As a result we batted 23 overs into the second day before declaring 3 runs in front leaving only 42 overs in which to force a second innings result.

Aided by some sloppy fielding West Bentleigh was untroubled to bat out time scoring 5/128.

Round 9.

The Australia Day fixture saw us drawn against last year's semi-final opponents Washington. On what promised to be a very hot day we elected to field in the relative cool of the morning after winning the toss.

In a steady performance we were able to contain Washington to 9/191 from the allotted 50 overs although it was disappointing not to dismiss them more cheaply after having them 5/63 from 19 overs.

Opener, Graham Adams with a confident 69 provided the foundation for a comfortable victory in which we scored 4/208 with 9 overs to spare.

Round 10.

By the time Round 10 arrived we were firmly entrenched in the four and assured of a finals berth. However, we still trailed the ladder leaders East Sandringham by 2 premiership points.

Sent in to bat by Hampton Centrals, we were given a fine opening stand of 72 by Greg Gorozidis and Graham Adams who scored 40 and 41 respectively. In an even display our batsmen capitalised on this start enabling us to declare at 7/249 from 59 overs. Brad Kreymborg continuing his consistent form and relishing the opportunity of a longer stay at the crease, top scored with 53 not out.

In the 6 overs remaining before stumps we were unable to obtain a breakthrough and Hampton Centrals were 0/11 at the close. We fared much better the following week as our opponents crashed to 7/66 before recovering to be all out for 154. Con Gorozidis

6/73 and Dave Blair 3/45 did the damage.

With a lead of 95 runs and with a possible 33 overs play we enforced the follow-on. Under our aggressive field placings runs flowed freely with Centrals scoring 61 before losing its first wicket in only the seventh over, Ian Cave was brilliantly caught by Greg Gorozidis from the bowling of Dave Blair. Blair struck again in his very next over when we saw the familiar sight of ball hitting stumps. Jeff Hayes provided the third wicket in the twelfth over with the score on 81.

After two more overs first innings wrecker Con Gorozidis was brought into the attack in a move which saw Centrals crash from 3/90 to 7/99 in the space of seven overs. Gorozidis had taken 3/7 from his first 4 overs and in 3 overs from the other end Jeff Hayes had figures of 1/1. And so with 12 overs remaining outright victory was within our reach.

However, Hampton Centrals dug in and a further five overs saw the addition of 22 runs without loss. As Gorozidis commenced the seventh last over of the match we trailed by 26 runs and needed three wickets without delay if we were to have time to score the required runs. Con responded by taking the remaining wickets from his next 5 deliveries without addition to the score.

Our bowlers had done the trick again and were well supported by an excellent fielding display with Greg Gorozidis taking 3 catches. With his second innings figures of 6/18 from 6.5 overs Con Gorozidis had returned the fine match figures of 12/91.

Our second innings was a formality although we lost two wickets in scoring the required runs from five overs. Thus with one home and away game remaining we had overhauled East Sandringham and acquired the envious position of ladder leaders.

Round 11.

Our final match was against East Bentleigh Centrals with the victory "prize" being retention of top spot and the advantages which ensue under the playing conditions of the finals series.

Against this background, and having regard to the long and hard battle which had earned us our number one position, it was a bitter disappointment that some players lost sight of the importance of this game. Their actions in arriving late for the match can be viewed in only one vein and that is one of total irresponsibility. Such actions are disruptive to strategies and morale and allow a captain no opportunity to properly prepare his team or communicate his plans.

It is little wonder then that after having to rearrange our batting order we were quickly in trouble, losing 3 wickets for only 8 runs and no better off when the fourth wicket fell at 31.

We were now faced with a real challenge and it was evident that Con Gorozidis had seen the error of his ways as he set about the task of redeeming himself for his part in the earlier fiasco. With the ever-reliable Brad Kreymborg, Con shared in a fifth wicket partnership of 78 runs, to take us to 109 before he was dismissed for 67. Brad and Greg Gorozidis carried the total to 132 when disaster again struck and we collapsed to be 9/140. Our hopes of converting this modest tally to a worthwhile target rested with last wicket pair

Kevin McNally and David Blair. In a fighting display, these two built the score to 199 with McNally scoring 29 and Blair 24 not out.

East Bentleigh Centrals, led by veteran opener Bob Prosser, were off to a solid start when it reached 1/83 but the introduction of Jeff Hayes to the attack once again saw the scales tipped in Union's favour. After remaining wicketless for his first five overs, Hayes turned on a devastating display which saw him capture 5/16 from six overs to send the opposition reeling at 8/108. They had lost a stunning seven wickets for only 25 runs and victory was in our grasp. The ninth wicket provided stubborn resistance and added 45 runs before Graham Adams wrapped up the innings for 153 to give us a 46-run win.

We had won six consecutive matches since our Round 5 defeat at the hands of East Sandringham to enter the finals series as ladder leaders.

Semi-Final.

Our semi-final opponents were the fourth placed Virginia Park Club who were elevated to the "A" Grade this season after finishing runners-up to our Second XI last year. They too entered the finals competition with a string of victories behind them, having been undefeated after the Christmas break.

We had no hesitation in electing to bat on winning the toss and were given a solid opening by Greg Gorozidis and Graham Adams who put on 41 runs in 53 minutes before Greg was dismissed for 21. The rot then set in, as we collapsed to 3/48 with the loss of Nester Nezeritis and Graham Adams.

Our destiny at this stage was, however, in good hands, with two consistent performers in Con Gorozidis and Brad Kreymborg at the crease. Our faith in this pair was justified as they added 63 virtually flawless runs before Brad was out leg before wicket for a highly valuable 17. Mark Olsen joined Con and another solid partnership ensued. These two took the total to 5/185 when "Ollie" was dismissed for a determined 14. We were in a sound, if not unbeatable, position as Vice-Captain Peter Head came to the crease. His partnership with Con took us to 226 when Con's innings came to a close. He had contributed a chanceless and magnificent 119 runs to steer us out of our early dilemma. Virginia Park were pleased to see the back of him, but there was more to come as David Young and "Headie" took the total to 6/335 at stumps on the first day.

While this partnership realised only a further 18 runs on the second day, we could not have asked for more. "Youngie" and the "Cotton Wool Kid" had added 127 runs for the seventh wicket to assure us of a place in the Grand Final. "Headie" had recaptured the touch that we have come to expect in compiling his 88 runs.

It was reminiscent of days past when Kevin McNally came to the crease against a relatively new ball and despite the lack of recent experience in this capacity he was able to scrape up 23 runs in a partnership of 69 with David Young.

The ninth wicket partnership between Jeff Hayes and "Youngie" saw David edge within 4 runs of his century. We were 9/438 as David Blair came to the wicket and when he departed 10 runs later David

Young remained unconquered on 102. His was an innings of sustained concentration and was instrumental in ensuring that we batted well into the second day and in so doing set our opponents an impossible victory target.

We had in fact occupied the crease for no less than 120 overs in amassing our total of 448. Apart from the outstanding individual achievements of Con Gorozidis, Peter Head and David Young, the innings was highlighted by six partnerships of 40 runs or more, with four of these realising in excess of 60 runs. While their individual scores were insignificant by comparison with those of the above-mentioned trio, the supporting roles played by both Brad Kreymborg and Mark Olsen were of paramount importance to the end result. Faced with the daunting task of chasing our huge total in less than half our batting time, Virginia Park's batsmen lacked any real purpose and suffered the ultimate setback when a wicket fell to the opening ball of the innings.

A steady flow of wickets followed as our bowlers dismissed them for 138 runs in 34.1 overs. Jeff Hayes was the pick of the attack, taking 5/39 from 9.1 overs to take his season's haul to 50 wickets.

Grand Final.

Thus the stage was set for the final stanza in our quest for that elusive premiership honour. Our opponent was East Sandringham who had scored a comfortable win over Bentleigh Uniting in their semi-final to earn the right to compete for a fourth consecutive "A" Grade pennant.

The match started at 10.30 a.m. on the Monday Labor Day Holiday immediately following the conclusion of the semi-final. On the first day a minimum of 100 overs were required to be bowled and the match was scheduled to continue over the two following Saturdays.

The loss of the toss was inconsequential as we were invited to bat first. Openers Graham Adams and Greg Gorozidis started cautiously but just as they appeared to be settling into a solid opening stand, Greg was dismissed with the score on only 16 after 41 minutes and 11.3 overs.

The second wicket partnership was therefore crucial and determined efforts from Nester Nezeritis and Graham Adams saw 68 runs added before Graham was out for a valuable 35. Nester was to follow 21 runs later for a well-made 38.

At 3/105 we looked to have the basis on which to build a formidable total but received a further setback when we lost Brad Kreymborg with the score then 4/117. Con Gorozidis had by this time added 30 of the 33 runs scored since his arrival at the crease. He was clearly in the same if not more brilliant form which had earned him his century in the semi-final.

Con was joined by Mark Olsen and together these two set about the task of re-building our innings. During the course of this partnership "Goro" posted his half-century in only 57 minutes with 9 boundaries. These statistics bear witness to Con's contempt for and dominance of the East Sandy attack.

The partnership came to a premature end

when Phil Pledger managed to hang on to a lofted but crashing off-drive from Con. He was out for 75 with the score now 5/172 and had scored all but 13 of the runs added during his stay at the wicket.

After playing another fine supporting role "Ollie" was dismissed only 14 runs later for 15. We were in a precarious position at 6/186 with a further one hour and 46 minutes play remaining until stumps.

David Young joined Peter Head in a situation not unlike that which they had encountered in the semi-final. Our objective at the start of play had been to at least bat through the first day and in a partnership of true character "Headie" and "Youngie" carried us through to stumps without further loss. We had endured 100 overs of intense pressure to compile 6/264.

Resumption of play on the second day saw this magnificent partnership come to an end after the addition of only 4 more runs. They had added 82 priceless runs and just as importantly, ensured that we occupied the crease for at least part of the second day. David Young's 35 was an excellent follow-up to his semi-final century.

The following partnership of 34 between Peter Head and Kevin McNally was to be our last stand of substance. Peter once again displayed the class and temperament which has ranked him high on the list of Union's great players. He had compiled an invaluable 63 runs in an innings which had begun with our score at 5/172 and which saw us surpass the "300" mark.

Although tailenders Jeff Hayes and David Blair fell in quick succession as we were all out for 304, we had batted for 116.5 overs and had set East Sandringham a formidable target in the time remaining.

In the unfamiliar role of having to win the match to win the premiership East Sandy were quickly in trouble as David Blair had Ron Canlon brilliantly caught by Peter Head with the score on 14.

Our opponents steadied to add a further 44 before Graeme Butler was caught behind for 35. Tony Murley followed 16 runs later when he was clean bowled by Con Gorozidis with the score at 3/74. Aided by more than their share of luck Bruce Feben and E.S.B.C. skipper Kim Pitt survived for the remainder of the second day to take their score to 3/111.

We were to remain wicketless for the first session of the third and final day as Feben and Pitt carried the total to 3/192 at the tea adjournment. Their partnership of 118 had brought them back into the match but the advent of the new ball one over after the resumption saw a new complexion come over the game. "Goro" had Feben caught behind without addition to the score and David Pledger followed in the same manner shortly after to see our opponents 5/199.

Leigh Head and Kim Pitt then edged the total to 230 before Head dollyied an off drive straight to Kevin McNally who accepted the catch. We were now within four wickets of victory and the East Sandy "tail" was exposed.

Rod Hockett joined Pitt and this partnership had realised 15 runs when Con Gorozidis struck again taking the prize wicket of Pitt caught behind by Nezeritis. Cafarella followed just one run later in "Goro's" very next over.

Our opponents were 8/246 as Phil Pledger joined Huckett and the pressure mounted as they combined for 14 overs to push the score to 294. Pledger had added 33 with some lusty hitting before he too was caught at the wicket off the bowling of Gorozidis. This gave Nester Nezeritis his sixth catch of the innings.

We were now just one wicket away from victory with 10 runs in hand as last man Colin Earle arrived at the wicket.

Earle struggled to survive a maiden over from Jeff Hayes but managed to evade the circle of close in fieldsmen. Another maiden from Gorozidis followed. Seven runs came from Hayes' next over as the batsmen tempted fate. Earle was on strike with total on 301 as "Goro" commenced what was to be the final over of the match. A single came from the third ball to bring Huckett on strike. He played out the next two balls but on the last ball of the over "Goro" uprooted his middle stump.

Victory was ours by a bare two runs and the scenes which followed will live in the memories of all present. The ground was invaded by an army of "Unionists" and the champagne flowed as players and supporters celebrated and savoured what was a truly magnificent victory.

The efforts of each and every player cannot be too highly praised. The concentration and application during our entire stay in the field was first class and reflected the unified commitment of the team.

The efforts of our bowlers were superb and special mention must of course be made of Con Gorozidis who returned the outstanding figures of 9/140 from 54 overs.

The statistical achievements of David Blair and Jeff Hayes did not give true reflection of their contribution at least as far as wickets are concerned. Their support of "Goro" from the opposite end could not be surpassed and in no small way was responsible for the end result.

I record my deep appreciation to a fine team and to two players in Peter Cook and Paul Welsh who although not members of our premiership eleven, had made valuable contributions towards our achievements during the course of the season.

My thanks also go out to the many Club members and supporters who urged us on throughout the finals matches, to our co-managers Noel Pullen and John Egan, to the committee and others who assisted in match day necessities such as scoring, transporting and laying of mats, etc., and to selectors Jack Vollugi, John Egan, Graham Adams and Peter Head.

Special thanks go to my vice-captain Peter Head, to coach Jack and to Beau Adams who was a constant and untiring assistant at practice.

This was a great victory to a great club and is shared by all.

KEVIN McNALLY
Club Captain



Skipper Kevin McNally holds the Premiership Shield aloft after presentation

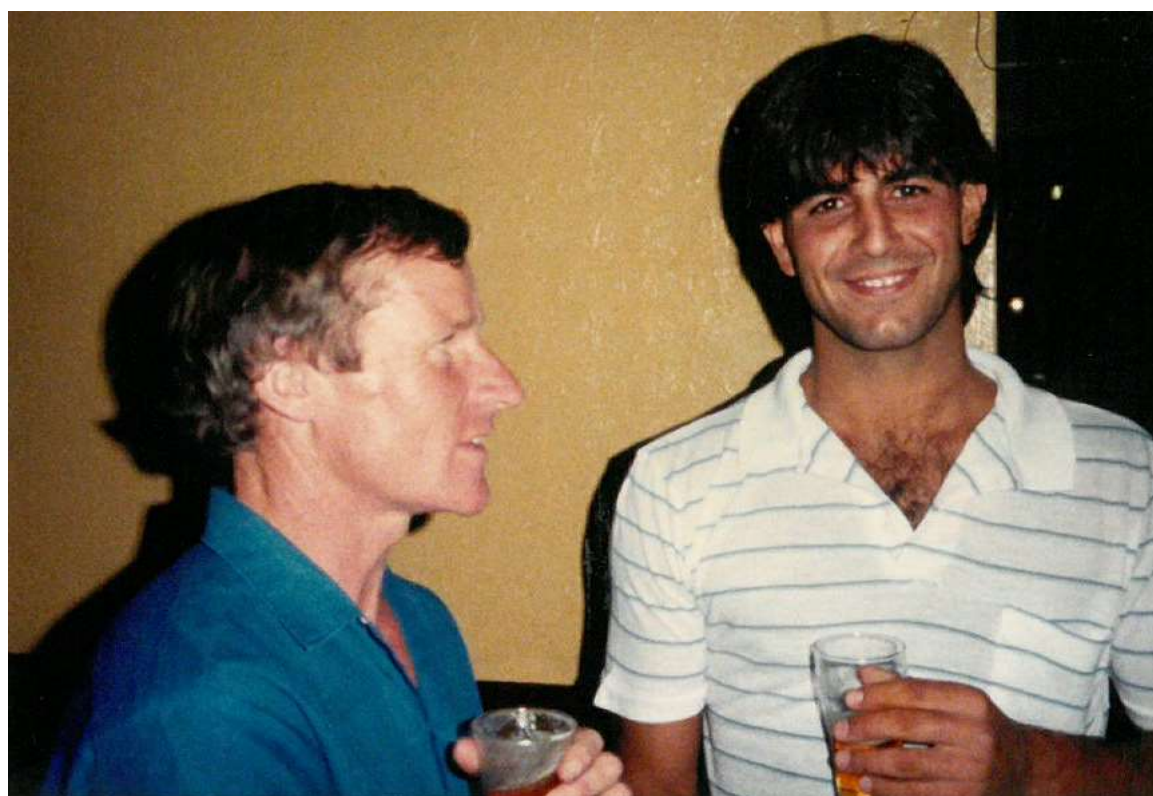


The team: Back Row: John Egan (Manager), Con Gorozidis, Greg Gorozidis, Kevin Adams, Graham Adams, Brad Kreymborg, Jeff Hayes,
Front Row: David Blair, David Young, Peter Head, Kevin McNally (Captain), Nester Nezeritis, Mark Olsen, David Wingfield (President)





Players, members and supporters congratulate Con Gorozidis on his fantastic Grand Final effort in capturing 9/140 off 54 overs.



David Young (left) and Con Gorozidis celebrating the win

Premiership Scoreboard

CITY OF MOORABBIN CRICKET ASSOCIATION – "A" GRADE GRAND FINAL
 BRIGHTON UNION (1st XI) v. EAST SANDRINGHAM (1st XI)
 AT BAILEY RESERVE EAST BENTLEIGH, MARCH 14, 19, & 26, 1983.

Kim Pitt (East Sandringham) won toss and sent Brighton Union in to bat.

BRIGHTON UNION 1st Innings	Runs	Mins	4s
ADAMS Graham M. c. Earle b. Pitt	35	166	1
GOROZIDIS Greg. c. Head b. Cafarella	7	41	1
NEZERITIS Nester b. Pitt	38	146	5
GOROZIDIS Con. c. P. Pledger b. Earle	75	87	12*
KREYMBORG Brad. c. D. Pledger b. Pitt	0	9	–
OLSEN Mark c. Murley b. Pitt	15	69	1
HEAD Peter b. Cafarella	63	163	9
YOUNG David c. Murley b. Hockett	35	121	5
McNALLY Kevin (Capt.) not out	15	38	3
HAYES Jeff. b. Cafarella	0	3	–
BLAIR David b. Cafarella	2	6	–
Extras (L. byes 6, wides 1, no balls 12)	19		
Total – all out	304		

Innings time – 429 mins. *Con Gorozidis hit 1 six.

Fall – 16, 84, 105, 117, 172, 186, 268, 302, 302, 304.

12th man KEVIN ADAMS

Bowling (includes no balls)	O.	M.	W.	R.
CAFARELLA P.	25.5	8	4	67
PLEDGER P.	15	1	–	47
HUCKETT R.	16	5	1	32
EARLE C.	33	12	1	67
MURLEY T.	5	2	–	9
PITT K.	22	1	4	75

EAST SANDRINGHAM – 1st Innings	Runs	Mins	4s
BUTLER Ron c. Nezeritis b. Gorozidis C.	35	92	5
CANTLON Ron c. Head b. Blair	7	19	1
MURLEY Tony b. Gorozidis C.	19	98	3
PITT Kim (Capt.) c. Nezeritis b. Gorozidis C.	77	311	7*
FEBEN Bruce c. Nezeritis b. Gorozidis C.	53	215	3
PLEDGER Dave. c. Nezeritis b. Gorozidis C.	4	11	1
HEAD Leigh c. McNally b. Gorozidis C.	26	39	3
HUCKETT Rod b. Gorozidis C.	21	92	1
CAFARELLA Peter c. Nezeritis b. Gorozidis C.	0	6	–
PLEDGER Phil. c. Nezeritis b. Gorozidis C.	33	53	4
EARLE Colin not out	4	13	–
Extras (byes 2, L. byes 10, no balls 11)	23		
Total – all out	302		

Innings time – 480 mins. *Pitt hit 2 sixes.

Fall – 14, 58, 74, 192, 199, 230, 245, 246, 294, 302.

Bowling (includes no balls)	O.	M.	W.	R.
BLAIR D.	22	5	1	57
GOROZIDIS C.	54	14	9	140
HAYES J.	44	11	–	91
YOUNG D.	1	–	–	2

Umpires – John Tillett and Adrian Fisher.

Brighton Union won on first innings by 2 runs.

Captain – Kevin McNally, Vice-Captain – Peter Head, Coach – Jack Vollugi.

10 years ago plus 2000 onwards

2001-02 Season

Alex Gerdan – elected Life Member (2002)



Alex joined the Club with his older brother George in 1979-80 at the age of 10.

He went on to captain the Under Sixteen team, and benefited from an extended period under the guidance of master coach Jack Vollugi.

After leaving junior ranks he worked his way up the lower senior elevens and played a single First eleven game in 1986-87. The following season he made 444 runs to win the First eleven batting award and the Senior Club Champion award.

At age 20 he departed for a four year stint at Prahran in the VCA, reaching the Second eleven there but returned to Union in 1992-93 to be part of our First eleven premiership win against Bentleigh Uniting.

After taking out the Senior Club Champion award in 1994-95 (575 runs and 25 wickets), Alex was appointed Captain-Coach, a position he occupied for four years. In this time the Club won two First eleven premierships, with Alex's uncompromising stance on team discipline ensuring these talented sides realised their full potential.

Alex is ranked with George Polson, Kevin McNally and Con Gorozidis as the most successful captains in the Clubs history.

A technically correct batsman with great concentration, Alex has made 2654 runs in 100 First eleven matches.

His overall record with the Club is 184 senior matches making 4563 runs at an average of 29.4 with a highest score of 116 and taken 112 wickets at an average of 22.7

Alex has also been an outstanding worker for the Club off-field, serving on the Committee for nine years and acting as Treasurer for the past two years.

He is a member of the Team of the Century

Owen Morros – elected Life Member (2002)



Owen with wife Emma and daughter Jade

Owen joined the Club in 1983-84 as a 12 year old, transferring from Brighton East Cricket Club.

He went on to captain the Under Sixteen side and at a young age was playing in senior finals taking 5/61 in the Fourth eleven semi-final loss to Washington Park in 1986-87.

The following season he gained a place in Brighton Union folklore in the Third eleven semi-final. Four runs off the last ball of the day would tie the game, meaning that higher-placed Hampton United would win through to the Grand Final, so six was needed for victory, and young Owen obliged to clinch a sensational win.

Sadly he was part of a heartbreaking grand final defeat the following weekend when after leading on the first innings the side collapsed to lose to Bentleigh ANA.

Owen's progress to the First eleven was rapid, making his debut in 1989-90 taking 5/35 in only his third match.

Further finals heroics followed in 1990-91, where after narrowly squeezing into fourth place the First eleven met Washington Park in the semi-final.

Union collapsed to 9/106 chasing Washington's moderate 129, and for nearly sixty nail-biting minutes Owen and Tony Grant fought grimly for every run under intense pressure until Owen got us home with a lofted on drive.

The partnership was instrumental in winning the flag, as Union speedsters Con Gorozidis and Michael Cordwell annihilated Mackie in the Grand Final.

Union legend Howard Leigh was so impressed with this effort he introduced a trophy that is awarded annually for an outstanding achievement.

Owen has played 13 years in the First eleven, being part of four premierships in the 1990s.

As well as being a feared lower-order hitter and useful bowler, he is well known throughout the CMCA as a superb all-round fielder, with three Club and three CMCA A grade fielding awards as testimony to his prowess.

Owen played 188 senior matches, made 2403 runs with a highest score of 76 and took 197 wickets at an average of 20.4

He coached the Club in season 1999-00, and has represented the CMCA in Under 21 and senior sides on numerous occasions.

In addition to his on-field efforts, Owen has served on the Committee for three years, and managed junior teams (Under Sixteen and Under Fourteen) for six years.

Many emerging players have benefitted from Owens emphasis on discipline and mental toughness, and he has been a true mentor and friend to his players.

Danny Frew – elected Life Member (2002)



Danny was recruited from the now defunct East Caulfield in 1986-87.

Danny had already come to the notice of the Club, having won the admiration of Union players and officials when he bravely endured a ferocious physical battering from express bowlers Con Gorozidis and David Blair in the 1983-84 A Grade semi-final.

After an initial struggle to establish himself, Danny became a regular fixture in the First eleven from 1989 onwards, and was an integral part of all four First eleven premierships won in the 1990s.

Batting mainly as an opener, he has won four Club batting awards and made 4274 runs in 154 First eleven matches, including five centuries, his highest score being 115 against Washington Park.

Overall with the Club he has played 212 games and made 6093 runs at an average of 29.0 and taken 48 wickets at an average of 20.3

He and Matthew Britten share a Club record opening stand of 207, made against Bentleigh Uniting in 1997-98. The Frew hook shot has brought hundreds of runs over the years, but has occasionally got him into trouble, once being felled by a Dave Burn bouncer which broke his jaw.

Danny is a popular and much admired figure around the Club, and is a great role-model for younger players with his commitment to regular practice and his hunger for on-field success.

He was appointed first eleven captain in 1999 and retained his poise and good humour despite some frustratingly inconsistent performances from inexperienced sides. He remained captain until 2003 when he took over as coach for a season. In an unusual move for a cricket coach he insisted in the younger players such as Con Pothitos, Michael Cove, James Gaynor, Darian Kuzma and Stuart Bell undertaking weight training that improved these young players strength and stamina.

Danny has also captained the CMCA senior representative side with distinction for a number of years.

Danny is a very special person who epitomises what this Club stands for and was selected in the Team of The Century.

