

GLANCING BACK – No 5 – By Noel Pullen

100 plus years ago -1900-25

Season 1921-22 saw both teams beaten in their respective Grand Finals, but the club and its players received some compensation.

The runner up awards were two guineas each team and J. Whitby received one guinea for making 132 runs as did J. Harris for his bowling average of 3.16.

The Secretary of the Club Mr H. Symes resigned and Mr N.V. Usher was elected at the next Annual meeting. A smoke night was arranged in honour of Mr Symes and artists engaged, amongst them were Messrs Wetherspoon (Baritone), Davies (Tenor), Harris and Isaacs (Hebrew Comedians), Fred Champion (Comedian) and Corporal Phillips (Animal and Bird imitations). A presentation was made to Mr Symes.

In later years the Club was presented with the 1921- 1922 membership medal number 38 of William Alfred Smith by his grand daughter Lorraine Rome. William who lived from 1882 to 1977 loved his cricket and later went to Tasmania to umpire with a team from Victoria.

In season 1922-23 the First Eleven finished third in "A" grade but the second eleven were not in the running.

75 plus years ago - 1925-50

DEATH OF WILLIAM (BILL) HALFORD MANN Senior Best Club Member Award

This award was introduced in season 1945-46 in the memory of Lieutenant William (Bill) Halford Mann who was killed in the Second World War.

Little is known of Bill Mann other than he played at Brighton Union and his parents donated his bat to the club for a perpetual award following his death. Bill was born on 18 October 1920 and enlisted in the Australian Army on 9 May 1944.

At the time of his death on 16 October 1945 Bill was posted to the 2/4 Base Workshop and tragically died aged 24 years of age.

In season 1993-94 this award was retired and holds a prestigious place in the Clubs trophy cabinet and was replaced by the Greg Gorozidis Memorial award

HISTORY CREATED – FIRSTS AND SECONDS PREMIERS IN SAME SEASON

1944-45. Wow what a season! Both the first and second elevens were premiers. Competing again in the Benteigh and District Association that had been renamed the City of Moorabbin Cricket Association that season the club defeated Benteigh ANA in both matches in the top two grades.

In the A grade Grand Final Benteigh ANA scored 136 in their first innings however Union were routed for only 49 of which Keane top scored with 13.

In their second dig Union shot ANA out for 106 with Bach snaring 5/24 and Faull 2/37 leaving Union to make 193 to win the premiership.

Union were soon in trouble in their second innings and collapsed to 5/45 and looking down the barrel however a great 130 run partnership between Alan Moore 71 not out and Bill Ostle 65 lifted Union to 7/197 and the premiership.

FIRST ELEVEN PREMIERSHIP TEAM 1944-45



**Back Row: – Alan Moore, Bill Bach, Pat Bach, W.T. Grant (President) Keith Hall, Bill Jostle, A. Paull
Front Row: - Len Cato (Secretary), Les Bliss, Ken Wannacott, Cyril Hindson, Joan Wannacott (Scorer),
Ernie Atkins, E. O'Brien, George Toe**

Fifty plus years ago – 1950-75

THE HAT TRICK

In season 1957-58 the Club had two sides in the BDCA top grade and the first X1 completed the hat trick by winning the Premiership. The team was George Polson (Captain), Les Polson, John Polson, Brian Jones, Bill Gillard, Ernie Kettle, Les Adams, Max Hunkin, Peter Smith, David Horman and Les Woods.

An excerpt from Secretary George Polson's Annual report from that season states:

“ The excellent performances of the first X1 in winning the Premiership of the BDCA for the third time was very pleasing to me personally as this was the first time it had been done in the history of the BDCA....Fielding was outstanding throughout the season....The excellent opening bowling combination of Les and John Polson must have been one of the best in the history of the Club...The batting of Peter Smith (2 centuries), Bill Gillard (1 century), Brian Jones for particularly fine team batting highlighted by 170 not out in the semi final and the wicket keeping of Peter Smith all played a major part in the outstanding record of the team...I would like to pay tribute to one who has been with Brighton Union for more years than he would care to remember – Frank Edlin or Dummy as he is so fondly known. He has played 221 games – 199 of those consecutively and in that time has made over 6000 runs and taken more than 800 wickets – recovering from a very serious illness that will prevent him from playing again... the club was highly honoured when John Polson was chosen as captain of the VJCU team that was successful in Adelaide. Further honour was bestowed on us when Peter Smith was elected captain of the BDCA team, a team that included no less than seven members from Brighton Union...There were also two events which stand out to me, the holding of the past players reunion...And the 50th Year Dinner and

Presentation Night. I would also like to thank Gerry Williams. Lois Hunkin, Shirley Polson, Margaret Forde and Lorna George for the preparation of afternoon tea at the matches."

John Polson was selected as captain of the Victorian Junior Cricket Union side to visit Adelaide over the Christmas break of 1957-58. He was the only BDCA player selected in the team and they were successful in defeating South Australia,

He also captained the BDCA inter association team, while brother Les Polson was selected as manager of the inter association team.

Les Polson won the BDCA "A" Grade bowling average the third successive season that the award was won by a Polson.

Graham Hamilton won the BDCA best all rounder Under Eighteen player once again.

FIRST ELEVEN PREMIERSHIP TEAM 1957-58

Back Row: Les Woods, Bill Gillard, Dave Horman, Les Adams, Max Hunken, Len Holford (President)
Front Row: Brian Jones, Les Polson, George Polson (Captain), Peter Smith, Ernie Kettle, John Polson



Twenty five years ago plus – 1975 – 2000

CMCA TURNS FIFTY

The CMCA celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in season 1979-80 and as part of the celebration they decided to hold an eight over lightning premiershipe competition.

In a remarkable performance we won the Senior grade beating Washington in the final, the Under Sixteen's beating Mackie and the Under Twelve's overcoming Brighton East in the final giving us three of the four titles played for with only the Under Fourteens missing out.

REMARKABLE INNINGS FROM GREG GOROZIDIS

In an Under Sixteen match against Brighton East, Greg Gorozidis smashed up 87 not out of our team's score of 0/107 in the eight overs. Brighton East could only manage 2/47 in reply.

Young star Andrew Grant was selected in the Victorian Under 16 team to compete in the Schoolboys Cricket Carnival in Launceston. The club provided Andrew with \$40 to assist with his expenses which he was very appreciative of. Andrew was subsequently selected as captain of the Australian under 16 team.

FIRST ELEVEN GRAND FINAL TEAM 1979-80



Back Row: Mark Olsen, Maurie Jones, Russell Purvis, Kevin Adams, Graham Adams, David Blair, Bill Ould (Manager)

Front Row: Peter Head, Neil Sadler, Kevin McNally (Captain), Nester Nezeritis (Vice Captain), Jeff Armstrong. Con Gorozidis (absent)

10 years ago plus 2000 onwards

JOHN & MICHAEL EGAN SHIELD

John

This shield was inaugurated in 2005 – 06 season for annual competition during the home and away season between Brighton Union and the Bentleigh ANA Cricket Clubs.

John and Michael (Mick) were brothers and both passed away at early ages.

John played all his cricket at Brighton Union and Mick played his formative years at Union.

John joined the club in 1952 and played his last senior match for the club in 1987. He played a total of 307 matches (four in the first eleven and the remainder in the lower elevens).

John was a tearaway fast bowler and captured 736 wickets at a career average of 15.1. He took five wickets or more in an innings on 40 occasions with his best performance being 9/35.

He made 4360 runs in his career, with a highest score of 156 and was a frightening close in field where he took 150 catches.

John was Senior Club Champion in 1966/67, 1967/68 and 1977/78 and was a Premiership team member of the Second Eleven in 1969/70 and the Fourth Eleven in 1974/75.

John served as President for twelve years, Secretary for two years, captained sides and was the First Eleven team manager for 10 years and was awarded Life Membership of the Club in 1972.

The Clubs Junior Club Championship Award is named after John and even when he became very ill he still made an effort to attend games of his beloved club and passed away due to his illness in 2007.

John was to Brighton Union what our motto stands for a Facile Princeps – An acknowledged Leader – and is sadly missed.

Michael

Michael died at the early age of 44 on the 27th September 1998.

After leaving Union he played at Bentleigh ANA from 1979 until his death in 1998 from cancer.

ANA do not have the records of Michael's total runs scored or wickets taken, but Michael received a best performance bowling award trophy in 1981/82 taking 8 for 44.

He was secretary from 1986/87 to 1989/90 and also served as treasurer and managed the junior teams.

He was best clubman in 1984/85 and 1986/87 and became a life member in 1990.

Michael led the third eleven in the CMCA "F" grade into the finals in season 1981/82 and in 1985/86 he led a very strong Second Eleven team in "B" Grade that finished in second position prior to the finals but losing the Grand Final.

His crowning glory was in 1988/89 when he was a member of the E grade premiership team.

John & Michael Egan Shield Winners:

2005-06- Benteigh ANA

2008-09-Benteigh ANA

2011-12-Benteigh ANA

2006-07- Benteigh ANA

2009-10-Brighton Union

2012-13-Benteigh ANA

2007-08- Brighton Union

2010-11-Benteigh ANA