

GLANCING BACK – No 9 – By Noel Pullen

100 plus years ago -1900-25

BRIGHTON SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER dated 19 SEPTEMBER, 1914 reported

The B.D.C.A. delegates met in the Brighton Town Hall annexe on Thursday to receive entries from clubs.

It was resolved to apply to the Brighton Council for the control of Hurlingham Park for cricket purposes, subject to Council's jurisdiction, and, failing that, the Council be asked to place a wicket at the disposal of the Association.

BRIGHTON SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER dated 28 AUGUST, 1915 reported

HURLINGHAM PARK

EXERCISE GROUND FOR HORSES.

The consideration of the Brighton Progress Association's letter, relative to the use of Hurlingham Park for the training of horses, was resumed at Monday's meeting of the Brighton Council. Cr. Pullman moved that the letter be referred to the Inspector for report. The motion was carried.

Cr. Wilson: - seconded the motion. He said that he could not see any objection to the training of horses on the Park, as the practice was confined to early morning.

Cr. Francis: - Do you agree that it should be used as a training track?

Cr. Wilson: - I do not know that it is used as a training track, I think it is an exercising track.

Cr. Stone: - If a man chooses to exercise his horses there, what harm can be done. Football is played there on Saturdays.

Later on in the meeting Cr. Stone suggested that a report should be obtained as to the necessity of erecting a lamp at the corner of Howell Street, opposite Hurlingham Park.

A Councillor: - Is it to see the horses go round? (Laughter):

Cr. Stone said that the road was largely used by residents going to church. It was also the only approach to Hawthorn road, between Union and Nepean road.

Cr. Francis: - Surely they don't want to train horses at night. (Laughter).

Cr. Stone: - No.

The matter was referred to the inspector for report.

75 plus years ago - 1925-50

In season 1949-50 the Club introduced the Senior Club Champion (J.T.Cullis Award)

J.T. (Eric) Cullis was a good left hand bat who played first eleven cricket in the 1940s but only played for a few seasons. He was a jeweller by trade and donated the Club Champion cup to the club.

The winners of the award from inception to 1964 are:

1949-50 – William Smith
1950-51 – Frank Edlin
1951-52 – Frank Edlin
1952-53 – Clem Manton
1953-54 – Geoff Smith
1954-55 – Frank Edlin
1955-56 – Frank Edlin
1956-57 – Harry Smith
1957-58 – Frank Edlin
1958-59 – Bill Gillard
1959-60 – Les Polson
1960-61 – George Polson
1961-62 – J.W. Polson
1962-63 – J.W. Polson
1963-64 – Ralph Banks

Fifty plus years ago – 1950-75

CMCA – HERE WE COME

At the 54th 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.8

1950's

The post war era saw a population boom in Melbourne and the consolidation of cricket in the local area, which put increased pressure on the open space available for community sport. Harry Morgan had the foresight to realise that it was essential to provide sufficient sports grounds for a growing community. Local Councils were composed of many builders and real estate agents keen on getting their hands on this open space. Direct action was needed, so with the approval of Clubs the Executive set about endorsing Councillors with likeminded interests to counteract the vested interest of developers already within the system. At this time as little as 300 votes could win a Council position as voting was not compulsory. Without this action we would not have had reserves at Tucker Rd, Victory Park, King George, Bailey Park and many more.

On the playing field the 1950's were dominated by two clubs Bentleigh ANA and Bentleigh Methodists, both winning four A grade Premierships.

1960's

By the 1960's the Association had grown to 36 clubs with six senior grades comprising 58 teams and three junior grades comprising 38 teams. In 1968 Harry Morgan stepped down from the Presidency after thirty one years (1936-1948) and (1949-1968). His contribution to our Association is recognised with The Harry Morgan medal for the (Man of the Match) in the Longmuir Shield grand final and the E grade shield named in his honour. He was succeeded by Ray Longmuir President for sixteen years (1968-1984).



Harry Morgan

On the field the decade was dominated by West Bentleigh winning five A grade Premierships.

1970's

The popularity of our game was obvious and this growth exploded over the next ten years and by 1975 the CMCA had more than doubled in size. Many new Clubs joined the CMCA when the Brighton District Association disbanded in 1978. The Association also introduced its first U12 grade in 1977 to compliment the U16 and U14 competitions. In 1973 Geoff Woolnough joined the Executive taking on the position of Secretary (1980-1992). His contribution to our Association is recognised with the senior B grade shield being named in his honour.

On the field the decade was dominated by the East Bentleigh club winning four A grade Premierships. By the end of the decade another power club East Sandringham Boys Club won their first A grade Premiership.

To be continued next edition

Twenty five years ago plus – 1975 – 2000

1981-82 Season

The first eleven played off in the grand final but unfortunately the match was a draw so East Sandringham were Premiers as they had finished on top of the ladder at the end of the home and away season.

The scores were East Sandringham 351 (Graham Adams 3/59, Tony Grant 3/54 and David Blair 3/120) to Union 8/237 (Peter Head 48, Mark Olsen 43 and Tony Grant 30).

First Eleven



Back Row: Brad Kreymborg, Mark Gurry (12th man), Mark Olsen, Graham Adams, Steve Cook, Russell Purvis, Greg Gorozidis, Jack Vollugi (Coach)

Front Row: Nester Nezeritis, David Blair, Kevin McNally (Captain), Peter Head (Vice Captain), Tony Grant

Third Eleven



Back Row: Wayne Owen, Jamie Melzak, Neil Sadler, Steve Fox, Peter Cook, Brian Millar, Craig Caarels.

Front Row: Andrew Power, Robert Adams, Noel Pullen (Captain), Ken McAlpine, Jack Vollugi (Coach)

Fourth Eleven



Back Row: Craig Caarels, John O'Sullivan, Anthony Reiche, Peter Cook, Nick Pavlou, Mark Gurry, Andrew Miller.

Front Row: Andrew Power, Wayne Owen, David Wingfield (Captain), Scott Cunningham, Jack Vollugi (Coach)

Fifth Eleven



Back Row: Danny McGowan, Craig Cunningham, Anthony Reiche, Bob Dixon, Alan Brown, Gary Jackson, Phillip Head

Front Row: Andrew Miller, John Egan, Doug Lovell (Captain), Mark Gurry, Jack Vollugi (Coach)

Under Fourteen Eleven



Back Row: Neil Sadler (Manager), Dean Pollard, Darren Lacey, John Tamvakis, George Gerdan, Andrew Nippard, John Davis, Peter Head (Manager)

Front Row: Darren Briggs, Jack Vollugi (Coach), John O'Sullivan (Captain), Sean Egan, Andrew Zogoulas.

Under Twelve Eleven



Back Row: Harry Tamvakis, Paul Scales, Alex Gerdan, Jack Vollugi (Coach), Justin Wightman, Matthew Wingfield, David Wingfield (Manager)

Centre Row: Jason Parsonage, Chris Martin, Brendan Egan (Captain), Jason Marion, George Gorozidis

Front Row: Duncan McLeary, Damien Scales, David Sheehan.

SECONDS REMARKABLE SEASON

The seconds had a remarkable season winning the B grade Premiership.

Considering that on all but two occasions we played first eleven sides they were outstanding.

Scores were Union 265 (Brian Adams 56, Michael Woodward 52, Bill Ould 38, Keith Hamilton 25, Neil Sadler 24) and 6/103 (Maurie Jones 22 no, Brian Adams 20, Michael Woodward 20) defeated Virginia Park 191 (Peter Cook 3/30, Maurie Jones 2/17, Tim Gallop 2/41, and Kevin Adams 2/42).

The team was Keith Hamilton (Captain), Bill Ould (Vice Captain), Martin Elks, Kevin Adams, Michael Woodward, Brian Adams, Peter Bartlett, Neil Sadler, Maurie Jones, Tim Gallop, Peter Cook and Jamie Melzak (12th) Coach Jack Vollugi.

The Under 14 team's effort was fantastic also as we only had ten players on the field on the first day of the final and all the boys put in a real fighting effort.

Skipper John O'Sullivan showed maturity well in excess of his young age. During the season he made scores of 137 not out, 121 not out and 118 not out to finish with an average of 76.6 but was just beaten by David Chapman who finished with an average of 79.0

Scores were Union 162 (Andrew Zogoulas 41, George Gerdan 27, John O'Sullivan 21, Andrew Nippard 19, Sean Egan 18) defeated St. Kilda City 147 (John O'Sullivan 4/30, Sean Egan 3/36, George Gerdan 1/17, Nikhil Raymond 1/35)

The team was John O'Sullivan (Captain), Sean Egan (Vice Captain), Dean Pollard, Darren Lacey, John Tamvakis, George Gerdan, Andrew Nippard, John Davis, Darren Briggs, Andrew Zogoulas, Nikhol Raymond and David Chapman (12th) Team Managers Peter Head and Neil Sadler, Coach Jack Vollugi.

Second Eleven Premiership team – 1981-82



Back Row: Bill Ould (Vice Captain), Peter Cook, Maurie Jones, Kevin Adams, Brian Adams, Michael Woodward, Jamie Melzak (12th man)

Front Row: Martin Elks, Tim Gallop, Peter Bartlett, Keith Hamilton (Captain), Neil Sadler.

2nd XI Players Statistics 1981-82

	Mat.	R	I	NO	HS	50s	100s	Ave	O	M	W	R	5/Inn	Ave	C	Best
M. Olsen	6	261	7	1	96	2		43.5	1			5			3	
M. Elks	9	335	12	3	78*	2		37.2	2	1		3			5	
M. Woodward	7	227	9	1	73*	2		28.3	26	3	6	99		16.5	1	3/10
W. Ould	13	410	15		107	2	1	27.3	1			5			3	
K. Hamilton	13	222	12	2	55	1		22.2							5	
B. Adams	12	249	14		56	2		17.7	13	4	1	34		34.0	7	1/24
T. Grant	3	144	3		75	2		48.0	9	3	1	30		30.0	3	1/30
W. Cornish	1	46	1		46			46.0	7		1	26		26.0		1/26
T. Gallop	10	107	10	7	39*			35.6	132	20	24	427	1	17.7	2	7/35
M. Jones	4	94	5	2	27			31.3	35	7	8	100		12.5	5	4/19
P. Cook	2	52	2		44			26.0	26	10	6	59		9.8	1	3/27
T. Williams	4	37	3	1	17			18.5							3	
S. Cook	5	89	5		50	1		17.8	90	20	15	253		16.8	1	4/41
P. Bartlett	7	121	8	1	36			17.2	118	43	21	251	1	11.9	4	5/52
B. Cunningham	2	25	2		14			12.5	10	1	1	28		28.0		1/13
K. Adams	13	118	13	2	38			10.7	140	17	28	428		15.2	9	4/17
K. McAlpine	1	10	1		10			10.0							1	
N. Sadler	10	99	12		24			8.2	1			2			6	
B. Millar	6	21	6	3	12*			7.0	73	22	7	145		20.7	5	3/10
J. Armstrong	1	4	1		4			4.0	3			7				
C. Tuckwell	2	8	3	1	8			4.0								
S. Layias	1	4	1		4			4.0	1			1			1	
J. Melzak	5	22	7	1	10			3.6								
I. Collins	1	0	1													



Skipper Keith Hamilton holds the Shield aloft following our great victory watched by team mates Kevin Adams (left) and Tim Gallop.

The Shield was later named the John Quiney shield and is now presented to C Grade premiers. John is pictured here in the blue shirt.

Social Report

Members enjoyed yet another successful season off the field, with functions being well attended.

Our gratitude goes to the Unionists who made their homes available and assisted throughout the course of the year.

BEEF ON THE SPIT

A grand night to welcome our ladies XI and to declare the season open.

LEAGUES CLUB NIGHT

Our host, Shifty Stan Kreymborg, provided an adventure of cunning and guile in an attempt to unravel the mystery of the "one armed bandit". Many thanks to the Kreymborg family.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY

Once again our visit to headquarters was a day to remember. Members gorged on chicken and champagne whilst satisfying their punting appetites. Those who secured even money for "Winger" completing the course, were left holding their tickets.



Breakfast is served.



Studying the form guide – but it didn't help.

RESTAURANT NIGHT

Swagman Restaurant. An enjoyable evening combining both fine food and entertainment.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

TUDOR COURT RECEPTIONS

A huge success despite the poor attendance. The performance of Noel Pullen "Getting Physical" to "Running Bear" on the dance floor, highlighted the evening.

BARRELS BY CANDLELIGHT

It was certainly not a "silent night" at the Armstrong abode.

CUWUMBINS CARVERY

A great night at the Halfway House. Our thanks to the inmates.

LAWN BOWLS EVENING

A top class night organised by Doug Lovell. Quite a few biased members were seen leaving the rink at the end of proceedings.

BARREL ON THE BUS

A scenic bus tour of Melbourne culminating in a barbecue dinner on the banks of the Yarra was enjoyed by all.

BEEF ON THE SPIT DISCO

A splendid evening with members being well wined, dined and jived. Kevin Adams was the feature on the dance floor. Had he finally gone round "the Adolfus twist"?

GRAND FINAL NIGHT

A night of celebration and consolation to conclude the season's affairs

Jeff Armstrong —
Social Secretary

**REMEMBER —
SUPPORT THE CLUB,
BY SUPPORTING THE
SOCIAL FUNCTIONS**

Premiership Scoreboard

SECOND ELEVEN – BRIGHTON UNION v VIRGINIA PARK-PACKER RESERVE
MARCH 13, 20 & 27, 1982

Keith Hamilton (Union) won toss and batted.

BRIGHTON UNION 1st Innings

OULD W. G. b. Alexander	38
ELKS M. b. Forsyth D.	5
ADAMS K. P. c. & b. Alexander	12
WOODWARD M. b. Alexander	52
ADAMS B. D. c. Jones b. Forsyth D.	56
BARTLETT P. c. Schoorman b. Pickering	4
SADLER N. b. Alexander	24
HAMILTON K. A. b. Forsyth D.	25
JONES M. not out	12
GALLOP T. run out	9
COOK P. J. c. Peters b. Pickering	8
Extras (L.byes 7, wides 1, no balls 12)	20
Total – all out	265

Fall – 23, 58, 76, 158, 173, 181, 233, 233, 247, 265.

12th man J. MELZAK.

Bowling	O.	M.	W.	R.
FORSYTH D.	22	2	3	78
FORSYTH G.	4	2	–	10
PICKERING G.	18.1	5	2	30
ALEXANDER T.	33	4	4	75
JONES A.	9	1	–	33
HILL S.	5	–	–	24
SCHOORMAN E.	1	–	–	8

VIRGINIA PARK – 1st Innings

SCHOORMAN E. c. Jones b. Cook	6
ALEXANDER T. c. Bartlett b. Cook	2
HILL S. c. Woodward b. Cook	0
PENTREATH J. c. Elks b. Bartlett	35
PICKERING G. std. Adams B. b. Gallop	19
FORSYTH G. c. Adams K. b. Jones	8
DIAMOND J. c. Adams B. b. Jones	0
JONES A. c. Cook b. Gallop	43
PETERS P. c. Gallop b. Adams K.	27
MARTIN G. not out	24
FORSYTH D. b. Adams K.	4
Extras (byes 10, L.byes 3, no balls 12)	25
Total – all out	191

Fall – 3, 7, 10, 34, 40, 44, 119, 151, 168, 191.

Bowling	O.	M.	W.	R.
BARTLETT P.	20	11	1	30
COOK P. J.	20	9	3	30
GALLOP T.	16	2	2	41
JONES M.	8	1	2	17
ADAMS K. P.	12.3	1	2	42
WOODWARD M.	6	–	–	15

BRIGHTON UNION – 2nd Innings

OULD W. G. c. Diamond b. Forsyth D.	4
ELKS M. c. Peters b. Alexander	9
ADAMS K. P. c. Alexander b. Forsyth D.	4
SADLER N. c. Schoorman b. Forsyth G.	0
WOODWARD M. c. Hill b. Forsyth G.	20
ADAMS B. D. c. Alexander b. Diamond J.	20
JONES M. not out	22
GALLOP T. not out	9

Extras (byes 4, L.byes 1, no balls 10) 15
Total 6 wickets for 103

Fall – 9, 23, 23, 27, 68, 70.

Bowling	O.	M.	W.	R.
FORSYTH D.	8	2	3	14
JONES A.	2	–	–	5
MARTIN G.	2	1	–	4
ALEXANDER T.	5	1	1	9
PENTREATH J.	1	–	–	9
FORSYTH G.	3	1	1	8
DIAMOND J.	3	–	1	11
HILL S.	2	1	–	5
PETERS P.	2	–	–	23

Brighton Union won on first innings
by 74 runs.

Captain – Keith Hamilton,
Vice-Captain – Bill Ould,
Coach – Jack Vollugi.

Premiership Scoreboard

UNDER 14 ELEVEN – BRIGHTON UNION v. ST. KILDA CITY – APEX AVENUE RESERVE
MARCH 13, 20 & 27, 1982

St. Kilda City won the toss and sent Brighton Union in to bat.

BRIGHTON UNION 1st Innings

NIPPARD A. c. Sharp b. Hope	19
O'SULLIVAN J. b. Touvinin	21
EGAN S. b. Hope	18
GERDAN G. c. Fotopolous b. Hellmann	27
ZOGOULAS A. c. Martin b. Hope	41
TAMVAKIS J. c. Morgan b. Hope	1
DAVIS J. not out	1
LACEY D. l.b.w. Hellmann	0
POLLARD D. b. Hellmann	1
BRIGGS D. b. Hellmann	0
RAYMOND N. did not bat	–
Extras (byes 10, L.byees 3, no balls 19)	32
Total – all out	162

Fall – 35, 60, 81, 134, 144, 158, 159, 162, 162.

Bowling	O.	M.	W.	R.
FOTOPOLOUS G.	17	4	–	35
TOUVININ M.	21	8	1	24
HELLMANN J.	30.2	11	4	44
HOPE A.	19	8	4	26

ST. KILDA CITY 1st Innings

WILLIAMS D. c. Tamvakis b. O'Sullivan	7
HOPE A. c. Egan b. O'Sullivan	2
HELLMANN J. c. Raymond b. Egan	40
BOWEY B. run out (Egan-Davis)	9
MORGAN R. b. Raymond	16
SHARP S. b. Gerdan	9
MARTIN J. c. Egan b. O'Sullivan	29
FOTOPOLOUS G. b. Egan	6
KARRASS J. c. Zogoulas b. O'Sullivan	0
GAMLIN J. c. Raymond b. Egan	5
TOUVININ M. not out	0
Extras (byes 11, L.byees 2, no balls 11)	24
Total – all out	147

Fall – 12, 17, 44, 80, 92, 108, 109, 145, 146, 147.

Bowling	O.	M.	W.	R.
GERDAN G.	14	5	1	17
O'SULLIVAN J.	18	6	4	30
ZOGOULAS A.	7	3	–	17
EGAN S.	17	1	3	36
RAYMOND N.	13	4	1	35

Brighton Union won on first innings by 15 runs.

Captain – John O'Sullivan, Vice-Captain – Sean Egan, Coach – Jack Vollugi.

Team Managers – Peter Head and Neil Sadler.

The fourth eleven's performance in being runners-up was outstanding. With basically the same side as the previous season, this team which had won only three matches in two years swept all before them to finish in third position under the captaincy of Dallas Riseley. In what only can be described as a "real gutsy effort" we defeated Heatherton in the semi-final under adverse conditions. Although we were defeated in the final our opponents Government Aircraft Factory (GAF) were a first eleven team.

In a magnificent social day the Club played a match against the Victorian Blind Cricket Association at Hurlingham Park.

Playing under the Blind Association's rules we made 174 with Peter Bartlett top scoring with 30 retired while our visitors hit up 131.

The Club continued its northern sojourn to Avoca and in a sensational match the teams could not be separated with 154 each. Peter Head 41 and David Blair 3/27 starred for Union while our great friend Ken Field was Avoca's best snaring 7/57

The club again won the Brighton Case Companies annual knockout series shield.

We defeated Brighton East in the preliminary round making 0/52 (Con Gorozidis 31 not out) routing East for 51 with Tony Grant bagging 4/15.

In the final Union made 95 (Peter Head 34) to Caulfield Footballers 74, giving us our fourth title in the six years since the creation of the competition.

Social Secretary Jeff Armstrong gave the following report on the Club's social activities for the season.

Members enjoyed yet another successful season off the field, with functions being well attended. Our gratitude goes to the Unionists who made their homes available and assisted throughout the course of the year.

Beef On The Spit

A grand night to welcome our ladies XI and to declare the season open.

Leagues Club Night

Our host, Shifty Stan (Brad) Kreymborg, provided an adventure of cunning and guile in an attempt to unravel the mystery of the "one armed bandit". Many thanks to the Kreymborg family.

Melbourne Cup Day

Once again our visit to headquarters was a day to remember. Members gorged on chicken and champagne whilst satisfying their punting appetites. Those who secured even money for "Winger" completing the course, were left holding their tickets.

Restaurant Night

Swagman Restaurant. An enjoyable evening combining both fine food and entertainment.

Christmas Party

A huge success despite the poor attendance. The performance of Noel Pullen "Getting Physical" to "Running Bear" on the dance floor, highlighted the evening.

Barrels By Candlelight

It was certainly not a "silent night" at the Armstrong abode.

Cuwumbins Carvery

A great night at the Halfway House. Our thanks to the inmates.

Lawn Bowls Evening

A top class night organised by Doug Lovell. Quite a few biased members were seen leaving the rink at the end of proceedings.

Barrel On The Bus

A scenic bus tour of Melbourne culminating in a barbecue dinner on the banks of the Yarra was enjoyed by all

Beef On The Spit Disco

A splendid evening with members being well wined, dined and jived. Kevin Adams was the feature on the dance floor. Had he finally gone round "the Adolfus twist"

Grand Final Night

A night of celebration and consolation to conclude the season's affairs.

PRESENTATION NIGHT SEASON 1981-82



Club Champion – Tony Grant



Junior Champion – John O'Sullivan



W. Mann Best Clubman Award
Neil Sadler and Mark Gurry

10 years ago plus 2000 onwards

MOORABBIN LEADER dated 7 FEBRUARY 2006 reported

AFTER 35 YEARS, UMPIRE STILL ENJOYING THE GAME

Veteran CMCA umpire Adrian Fisher on Saturday took charge of his 500th match. Adrian, 52, reflects on his long time in local cricket.



Umpire Adrian Fisher (left) with his great mate and colleague Frank Robinson

When I couldn't get a game for Ormond sixths I knew I'd better try something else.

I was more of a bowler but I obviously wasn't going to have a long career as a player, so I took up umpiring with the CMCA when I was 18. That was in 1971 and here I am all these years later.

I got an A-grade grand final in 1973-74 and all up I've done 33 grand finals, 17 in Longmuir Shield. I missed out in my first year but I've had one every year since.

I've been lucky to umpire some great players. I've never said publicly who they are because I'm still umpiring but Con Gorozidis and Kim Pitt stand out. They're still going well, too.

John Lilley, Ian Longmuir, Mark Rainey, Marty Lyons, Humphrey Hughes, there's been a few.

Two matches stick in my mind. There was a B-grade grand final between Hampton Central and Brighton Union in 1975 and both teams went out from the start to make a game of it.

Union made about 300 and Centrals put in a great chase but fell short by two or three runs. They'd been on top all year.

The second last bloke was run out and then the poor old fast bowler was out first ball.

In the early 1990s when we had four-day games, there was a great final between East Sandy and Omega.

Both teams had two innings and it was tight all way through. I made a few good decisions, picked up a few faint edges.

Of course, you make mistakes. You know by the batsman's reaction. You wish you could call them back, but you can't and you've just got to get the next one right.

There's been a few laughs. One day I was at square leg umpiring Omega and Highest West when I nearly got hit by a kite. I been hit by the ball a few times, but it's never funny. It hurts.

A special letter from Maurie Jones

Noel, BUCC was a great part of my life. As you know I started as a 12 year old when I looked in the local paper to find a cricket side to play for.

You picked me up in your Toyota from home and my first game was at Chelsea Heights along with Dave Blair and Ronnie Lyfield.

Mate, I had fantastic times at the club and met some super blokes none better than you Noel.

I played there for some 25 years and played in losing finals but had great success.

Mocca

A heartfelt letter from Nester Nezeritis

Brighton Union has meant a lot to me over the past thirty years.

The other day I was cleaning my trophy cabinet and admired the pennant that we won in the 1982-83 grand final against East Sandringham.

I started my career in 1977 thanks to Jeff Armstrong and Mick Fox. I was playing cricket with the Richmond Seconds in District Cricket.

It was the greatest move I ever made and met some amazing people such as yourself, Dave Wingfield, Kevin McNally, Con Gorozidis, Dave Blair, Great men.

All these people have had some influence on my life, on and off the field.

The Club meant so much to me as I have been/done:

1. Club First eleven Vice Captain under Kevin McNally
2. Captain Second and Fourth Elevens
3. Won the batting average in the First Eleven against great names like Con Gorozidis, Peter Head, Graham Adams and Kevin McNally
4. Won six fielding awards
5. Selector
6. Committee Member

7. Social Club Committee Member organising trips to Fiji and the Gold Coast
8. Have played in every team at BUCC
9. Took six wickets behind the stumps in a grand final win over East Sandringham in the first eleven
10. Took a hat trick of stumpings off the great Jeff Hayes.
11. The best wicket keeper ever at the club.

All these great times and memories I will not forget.

But I feel I am a forgotten man as I am not a Life Member. Every time I look at the Life Membership board and see the great names I think to myself that maybe I wasn't that good or didn't contribute as much as some others.

But also every time I walked on to the field I hated the other teams and always wanted to win for me and my mates at the Club.

Thank you Brighton Union for changing my life.

Nester

Authors note – I certainly agree that Nester is the best wicket keeper I have seen in my time at the Club and I also believe that he should be elected a Life Member.

SOME SPECIAL COMMENTS IN 2006

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM: Can you pass on to all concerned at playing level and committee that I wish all well for the coming season. May all the players wear the club colours with pride in every game that they take to the field.

I have great memories from BUCC and I wish for that to continue.

STEVE BROWN: I think of my Brighton Union cricket days quite often and I can say that the mighty BUCC is the only cricket club that's been worthy of my services, it's got nothing to do with that I was a pretty ordinary cricketer.

Although my young "fella" is 15 now and there's a little bit of an itch coming back, so who knows, hopefully I'll get a chance to wheel the willow and maybe even do the gloves behind the wickets again.

WAYNE OWEN: Wrote to the Club saying "It was interesting to note the new sponsor The Elwood Lounge".

It reminded me of a time in the past when four "over the hill gentlemen", RLA Thomas, DC Wingfield, PJ Cook and W. Owen were having a beer after a tough fourth eleven match at "Little Hurly"

Having analysed where we went right or wrong, the speculation of which personnel may be needed to advance us to the finals came up. Having bandied around several names (some past, some present), "Cooky" then proceeded to ask with all innocence and sincerity, "You know that guy who used to keep in the fourths, he used to work in a supermarket in Brunswick, why did everyone call him Kumar?"

After a two second silence which enabled us to absorb the question, all three of us burst out laughing, and in unison revealed the not so well kept secret, "because that's his bloody name"

Authors note: *Kumar Savandra was the owner of the Elwood Lounge and a wonderful sponsor.*

REV. NEIL BACH: My father Pat Bach, uncle Bill Bach, uncle Len Holford all played, coached or were officials with BUCC so I have a historical link.

I also played several games against BUCC for Bentleigh ANA including one when Con Gorozidis nearly took my head off. I don't think he liked me charging him, funny about that.

I wish the club all the best.

Authors note: *I well remember playing against Neil who was a great fast bowler. In 1971 our seconds were in the CMCA "A" grade as the first eleven were playing in the VJCA and ANA beat us outright without losing a wicket.*

Neil smashed us in the second innings capturing 5/39 and also smashed Ian Collins ribs with a great rising ball.

DENIS DAKIS: I moved to Bega in 1995, and am the parent of five young boys.

I work as a teacher's aide at Bega High School in the special education unit with profoundly disabled students.

Haven't played cricket in ages, since my memorable days at BUCC, but did play my 300th Aussie rules game up here, and I also played in my first winning grand final team.

STUART MURRAY: I have three sons, two of which commenced their playing careers, but alas they are with the opposition, Hampton United, as we live just around the corner.

I think of Jack Vollugi throwing balls at me in the nets, and baiting me to hit them back at him as hard as I could as long as I got my foot down the wicket. I would have loved to see his shins the day after each training session.

The other fond memory I have, and occasionally relate to my friends was playing under 16's in the morning then riding my bike down Bay Street for fish and chips. I would then ride back and sit outside the rooms desperately watching the blackboard, hoping players selected in the seniors would call in with injury or work commitments. The times "Winger" or Noel Pullen would come out, look over, and offer me a chance to play in the fifths was a highlight to me and treasured memories to a young cricketer.

I remember opening with Doug Lovell as captain and making about 30 and I felt invincible, however my strongest memory was taking a catch that had been skied so high it gave all the "senior players" around enough time to get well and truly out of the way. They all proceeded to call me in and somehow I caught it. My next memory, was having Allen Thomas hugging me and calling out "welcome to senior cricket son!"

JUSTIN CLARKSON: Just got the newsletter. It is no wonder the BUCC is such a strong club.

TONY COOK: Thanks for the newsletter. It is great what you and the club are organising. Just another example of the professionalism and fantastic attitude this club has. My involvement has been short but most enjoyable.

MICHAEL DEVOLA: Just a note to say it was the best move of my cricketing years to play three seasons with Brighton Union. The friendships made during those years (early eighties) have been long lasting friendships.