

GLANCING BACK – No 2 – By Noel Pullen

100 plus years ago -1900-25

THE GREAT WAR FORCES CLUB INTO RECESS

Brighton Union went into recess from 1916 to 1919 due to the Great War of 1914-18 with a skeleton Executive of Frank Smith, Norman Worley and Les Moore managing the administration.

THE BEAR BOYS

Lance Corporal William Robert Bear enlisted 1 March 1916 and killed in action in France in WW1 on 1 September 1918

Awarded A Bar To The Military Medal by His Majesty the King on 15 September 1919 and was recommended for the award on 28 August 1918 because during operations at Herleville, east of Amiens he carried out the duty of linesman during the advance in the face of heavy machine gun fire, and laid telephone wires to the Companies in their advanced positions.

For some hours he repeatedly passed through a heavy barrage repairing the line. By his continued coolness he maintained telephone communication so that his commanding officer was able to keep in close touch with the situation.

BRIGHTON SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER dated 16 MARCH, 1918 reported

AVENUES OF HONOR - SANDRINGHAM

BAY ROAD.

On left hand side of Bay Road, along the tram track. Starting at Station Street, Sandringham.

Bugler L. D. Bear.

Signaller A.N.A. Bear

Signaller W.R. Bear.

(Note: Bugler Leslie Douglass Bear (L.D. Bear), Signaller William Robert Bear (W.R. Bear), and Arnold Norman Augustus Bear (A.N.A. Bear), were brothers. They were the sons of William Edgar and Kate Bear of Sandringham. The names 'W. Bear' and 'D. Bear' appear in the Brighton Union Cricket Club reports published in the Brighton Southern Cross newspapers).

BRIGHTON SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER dated 21 SEPTEMBER, 1918 reported

UNION CRICKET CLUB.

The death is reported of Signaller Bear, who was well-known in pre-war days as a prominent local cricketer.

He was formerly captain of the old Brighton Union Club, vice-captain of Sandringham Club, whilst he was also a member of the local A.N.A., and Presbyterian church. He had a promising career in front of him, but he responded to the call of Empire and served with the A.I.F. abroad, gaining the Military Medal six months ago.

The death took place in France at the early age of 27.

75 plus years ago - 1925-50

THIRDS INTRODUCED

This season (1924-25) saw the introduction of a third eleven and the first eleven missed the finals but the second eleven won the flag, the first time a second eleven from the Club received such an honour, however in season 1925-26 only two teams played and both teams finished in third position.



1924-25 2nd XI Premiershipe Side

Season 1926-27 saw the first eleven finish sixth and the second eleven third while in season 1927-28 the first eleven were beaten in their semi final to finish fourth and the second eleven made it to eighth on the ladder.

Union was defeated the following year in first grade in the semi final, the seconds finished ninth and in season 1929-30 Union was well defeated by Hurlingham in the Grand Final who made 406 with Ralph taking the remarkable figures of 6/60. Union made 155 (Neville 46) and 184 (Saunders 62 and Brown 41).

Financially the club struggled as the depression hit and members were hard to come by, financial ones especially. Players used old equipment, patched where possible and wore whatever garments they could afford or resurrect. Cricket balls were extremely difficult to come by in those days and only the beneficence magnificence of A.G. Thompson kept the local competition alive.

The Company A.G. Thompson (Kookaburra) has continued to support the club to this day through the generosity of Mr Bruce Thompson who was the Club's number one ticket holder until last season.

In season 1930 – 31 the first eleven finished the home and away season in third position ahead of Princes Park and behind Hampton and Thistle while the second eleven finished fifth, two points outside the four.

Unfortunately we were defeated by Thistle in the grand final by 69 runs but some consolation was that S. Brown won the competition batting averages with an average of 50.5

Fifty plus years ago – 1950-75

In a remarkable performance in a match in second grade in late January 1950 Les Polson captured seven wickets for six runs off five overs against Gouge and finished with the match figures of 12 for 62. Union won outright after leading by only one run on the first innings.

On 1 March 1950 the Brighton District Cricket Association were invited to play a Melbourne Cricket Club Eleven at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Union's Vern Gladman was appointed captain and other Union members of the team were Eric Cullis and K. Hall

It was the decade that set the club on the road to its greatest era.

The first eleven broke through again in 1950 – 51 against Hurlingham to take the flag and the second eleven came close to bringing off the double with a loss to St. Stephens in the grand final.

Both the first and seconds were runners-up in 1951-52 but missed the finals the following season.

Minutes of the BDCA of 14 December 1953 report that John Polson was cleared from Hurlingham to Brighton Union.

Frank Edlin – elected Life Member (1953)



Above: a rare 1948 photograph of Frank Edlin representing the Brighton District CA Under 21 team

Frank Edlin joined the Club in 1936, and was deaf and dumb and thus was nicknamed “dummy” and retired in 1958 due to illness.

He played mainly in the seconds and thirds and also captained those sides, had a remarkable ability to place fields and make bowling changes although he could not speak.

Frank played 221 games, 199 of these consecutively, over an estimated 20 seasons and made over 6000 runs and took 800 wickets.

He was Club Champion on four occasions and his best bowling effort was 8/44.

Len Holford – elected Life Member (1953)



Len joined the Club in 1946 and no records are available to show how many games he played.

Len served on the committee for many years and was President for ten seasons.

In season 1952-53 the first and second elevens were runners up and the third eleven won its first premiership this season and repeated the feat in 1953-54 with players of the calibre of Rex Baker, Bill Ould, Graham Hamilton, Ken Brown and Geoff Smith. Baker scored a scintillating 99 and Ould's wicket keeping was outstanding.

Union's third eleven captain who led the side to the successive premierships was Harry Smith, a wily and astute player who also served off field as a committeeman for many years.

Twenty five years ago plus – 1975 – 2000

GREAT PREMIERSHIP WIN

During the home and away season of season 1975-76, the Firsts won seven matches, drew two and lost to Cavaliers and Hampton Centrals to finish in second position, 14 points behind Hampton Centrals.

Round eight saw Bill Ould appointed captain in place of Kevin McNally. Kevin was not having his usual good season at that stage, but accepted his demotion as the true Union man he is.

During this round a complete change came over the team. Playing Cluden, we had to win to keep our finals hopes alive, and with Ray Taylor proving to be one of the best player we had signed for years, younger players such as Jeff Armstrong and Lou Coyle finding their feet, and seasoned men like Bill Ould, Peter Cook and Keith Hamilton showing the benefits of their class and experience we won well. From there on we never looked back.

Kevin McNally returned as Bill's deputy in Round 11 and together these two with the support, loyalty and dedication of their teammates, moulded a great finals team.

In the Semi-Final against traditional rivals Hampton Methodists our powerful batting line up did not perform as well as in previous matches. Winning the toss we were soon 2/3, then 5/37 until a fighting 53-run sixth wicket stand between Dick Bullock and Jeff Armstrong lifted our score to 90 before Dick was caught for a fine 33. The rot set in again and we were soon all out for 127. Other contributors to the score were Phillip Hope 19 not out, first game player Paul Mornane 17 and Jeff Armstrong 16.

Peter Cook struck an early blow to the Methodists when he had them 1/2 however they recovered to be 5/107 and looking good. In a sensational comeback Union took 4/2, Jeff Hayes taking three of these with well controlled spin.

The last wicket put on eight runs before a great return from Jeff Armstrong to Kevin McNally, saw Jones on his way back to the pavilion and Methodists fell 10 runs short of our total. Best bowling was Jeff Hayes 4/28 and Ray Taylor 4/23.

Our second innings was even worse than the first and after being 9/68, Jeff Hayes (31 not out) and Peter Cook (16) scored 45 for the last wicket and time had run out for the Methodists.

In the Final we won the toss on a fine warm day and elected to bat, finishing the day 4/221. As Union had to win the match to be premiers, the question on everyone's mind was when Bill would declare the innings on the second day.

At 2 44 p. m. Bill closed our innings at 6/304. The batting of our team was superb, great concentration and determination had built that score.

Hampton Central were soon in trouble at 3/46, but a great fight back saw them 4/154 at stumps.

The final day, with rain threatening, was a long and tough struggle for our club. Central's lost their fifth wicket 210, and then Ian Cave took an incredible 24 runs off Peter Cook's thirteenth over to lift his team's score to 266, until Jeff Hayes bowled Cave in the next over to bring Union back into the game.

At 227 Bill Ould took a magnificent catch to give us our seventh wicket, and Jeff Hayes struck another blow to Centrals when he captured the wicket of Steve Hucket, well caught by Lou Coyle with the score at 292.

With the score at 301 Phillip Hope bowled the most important over of his career at Union. On the fifth ball Michael Devola, who was later to play with Union, swept a ball to backward square leg and Dick Bullock with tremendous speed saved a certain four and with a great return to keeper Kevin McNally saw Devola run out for a fine 107. The next ball saw new batsman Don Scarlett edging it to Ray Taylor at slip to give Union victory by 3 runs.

This certainly was one of the most exciting and courageous Premiership wins any club has achieved in the history of any sport.

First Eleven Premiers 1975-76



Back Row: Dick Bullock, Keith Hamilton, Phil Hope, Kevin McNally, Peter Cook, Jeff Armstrong, Ray Taylor, Bill Ould (Captain), David Blair.

Front Row: Jeff Hayes, Lou Coyle and Paul Mornane.

10 years ago plus – 2000 - 2003

In season 2003-04, on field we had one of our best seasons ever. We fielded an extra senior team and a third under twelve team, bringing our number of teams to ten. Six teams made it to the finals, with three senior plus two junior teams progressing to the grand final.

The first eleven won ten out of fourteen matches and came within a whisker of winning the Longmuir Shield, a great effort from first year leaders coach Danny Frew and captain Cyril Campbell.

Increased output by rising stars Darian Kuzma and Con Pothitos was a major plus, while Con Gorozidis, Danny Frew and Paul Edwards proved as valuable as ever.

Improvement in the lower elevens was also encouraging. First time skipper Imad Amro did a fantastic job in taking the third eleven side to the grand final, where they were overpowered by a strong Benteleigh Uniting line up.

In their debut year in the one day grade Jason Parsonage's also had a good season before being narrowly beaten in the grand final. The second eleven missed the finals on percentage despite playing two grades higher than last year, and the fourth eleven finished mid field, so overall the picture is much improved.

Coach Danny Frew worked hard on fielding and fitness, while highly regarded specialist coach Peter Burke supervised younger players forming the Jack Vollugi squad.

The junior section also had a successful season, with two under twelve teams reaching the grand final. The highlight was a powerful performance by the under twelves, who lost only one match despite many players playing part of the season in the under twelves A team. The side was capably managed by Peter Struck and James Campbell. The under twelve A team missed the finals on percentage, while the under twelve E team made the grand final but were beaten.

Saturday 22 November 2003 will be a date that Cailain Campbell will always remember fondly. Playing in the Under 12C grade against Mackie, 11 year old Cailain turned on a remarkable exhibition of swing bowling to snare 5/5 off 4 overs to bundle Mackie out for 30.

The follow-on was duly enforced, and when wickets were needed he came on again with the old ball and took another 4/0 off 3 overs (including the final wicket) to wrap up an outright win with two overs to spare.

The Under fourteen team finished on top of the ladder at the end of the home and away season but put in a shocker in the semi being bowled out in 29 overs while the under sixteen team won only one match for the season.

Under Twelve Gold player Patrick Tiernan finished the season with the great average of 91.5

Champion Con Gorozidis won the CMCA Longmuir Shield aggregate runs award and also the prestigious CMCA Knights Award for the best Longmuir Shield player.

This was Con's third Knights award, a record, the others being in seasons 1989-90 and 1990-91.



Union greets Con Gorozidis (left) and Danny Frew each reached milestones for the club on 13 December 2003. Con played his 300th game and Danny played his 200th game.