

**GLANCING BACK – No 1 – By Noel Pullen**

**September 1907**

**September is a very special month for Brighton Union Cricket Club as it was the month the club was founded on 23 September 1907.**

**Or was it founded then?**

**The first known existence of a Brighton Union Cricket Club was in 1883.**

***SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER reported***

*Brighton Union were to play Liverpool C.C. (Fitzroy) at Jacks Paddock, Middle Brighton on 6 October 1883.*

*The Union team named was Monk, MacPherson (2), Minnis, Howard, Curtis, Westmacott, Alston, Daws, Field, and Pritchard.*

During that season several social matches were played against such teams as St. Kilda Alma, Wesley, Pacington and Carlisle.

Very little is known of the club between 1884 and 1886, however Brighton Union Football Club existed during that period.

***SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER reported***

*The second annual meeting of the club was held on 5 September 1887 and during the season 26 matches were played resulting in 15 wins. A. Klenmer was the best batsman with an average of 10.1.*

The club played very few matches between 1888-89.

***SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER dated 27 SEPTEMBER 1890 reported***

*The seventh annual meeting of the Brighton Excelsior CC (late Union CC) was held at the Devonshire hotel. There was a very good attendance of numbers. Last season the club won 10 matches, lost 9, and there were 3 drawn. There was also a balance of 3 pound 13/2 on hand. The following were elected office bearers for the season. Patron Hon. T. Bent M.L.A., President M. Turner, Vice Presidents Cr. Howden, Cr. Burrows.*

This is all that is known of the Excelsior or the other Brighton Union Cricket Club until some 17 years later.

I am convinced that that Club was not the forerunner of the Brighton Union Cricket Club of today.

### **Ten interesting happenings in sport in 1907**

1. The English cricket team loses the ashes to Australia (1907-08) losing four matches and winning one.
2. New South Wales wins the cricket Sheffield Shield.
3. East Melbourne wins the Victorian Cricket Association Premiership.
4. Carlton wins the VFL (now AFL) Premiership defeating South Melbourne by 5 points. Essendon are the 'wooden spooners'
5. Apologue wins the Melbourne Cup.
6. Australasia (a team consisting of Australian and New Zealand players) wins the International Lawn Tennis Challenge (now the Davis Cup)
7. The New South Wales Rugby Football League is formed in Sydney introducing the sport of rugby league to Australia.
8. The Bondi Surf Bathers Lifesaving Club is formed at Bondi Beach, Sydney, the first of its kind in the world.
9. Brighton Union Cricket Club legendary coach Jack Vollugi is born.
- 10. Brighton Union Cricket Club is formed.**

During the years from 1900-1906 clubs changed affiliations and some disbanded whilst new clubs were born and teams were formed from groups.

One such group was the "Odd Stocking Push" that played social matches during the seasons, which invariably commenced in October and finished in May. It is not known what the origins of the Odd Stocking Push were.

### **HISTORIC MATCH**

In early 1906 the "Odd Stocking Push" played a social match against the New Marylebone social cricket club at Primrose Hill, just north of St. Finbars Church in Centre Road, East Brighton, and this historic match, although the result is not known, led to the creation of Brighton Union Cricket Club.

Some of the names involved in the match included the Reverend G.A. Calder-Wade, Frank Smith, Harvey Cheeseman, Clarrie Weber, Howard Weber, V. Thomas and H.C. Rourke.

### **FIRST ANNUAL MEETING**

The fourth Annual General Meeting of the New Marylebone Cricket Club was held on 23 September 1907 at St. Marks School hall in Union Street East Brighton.

Little is also not known of the origins of the New Marylebone Cricket Club but players from the match between the "Odd Stocking Push" and the New Marylebone Cricket Club in early 1906 were present at this meeting.

Mr Frank Smith was elected President, with Mr W. Ashton Secretary, Mr W. Tope Treasurer, Assistant Secretary was Howard Weber and committee members elected were Messrs. G. Bowman, Arthur Cheeseman, Harvey Cheeseman and V. Thomas, Vice Presidents in the Club's inaugural year were Messrs B. Butler, W.T. Grant, F. Ridge, S. Evans and the Reverend G.A. Calder – Wade.

The Reverend G. A Calder-Wade (Minister of St. Mark's church from 1905-10) placed the school room at the disposal of the club on the understanding that due notice should be given to himself or the Secretary of the Church.

It was also proposed that the secretary arrange matches with other teams for the season if unable to enter a competition.



**St. Marks church, Corner Union Street and Hawthorn Road, East Brighton where the first Annual General Meeting was held on 27 September 1907 as it was then and still is today.**

***BRIGHTON SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER dated 21 SEPTEMBER, 1907 reported***

***CRICKET***

***NEW ASSOCIATION FORMED.***

*A combined meeting of delegates of the Brighton-Moorabbin and Brighton District Junior Cricket Association delegates was held at the Brighton town-hall Hotel on Thursday evening, Mr. H. F. Northe presiding. It was decided, on the motion of Mr. Booker (Hurlingham) and Mr. Gower (Sandringham), "that the Brighton District Cricket Association" be formed.*

**BRIGHTON SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER dated 28 SEPTEMBER, 1907 reported.**

**CRICKET.**

*Nine teams have entered for the 2<sup>nd</sup>. grade premiership to date, and as others are forming the time for receiving entries has been extended until next Tuesday. It is proposed that 2<sup>nd</sup>. grade teams play each other once, three-day matches, the team with the most wins to be premiers. The following teams have been entered :-*

*New Marylebone (Brighton) – changed to Brighton Union  
Brighton Presbyterians  
and Second Elevens of -  
Brighton Congregationals  
East Caulfield  
Cheltenham  
St. George's  
Elsterwick A.N.A.  
Heatherton  
Elsterwick.*

*Matches commence on October 12. It is proposed that delegates' meetings be held in South Yarra. Entry fee is 10/6 per team, and 5/- guarantee for fines, returnable at end of season.*

**BRIGHTON UNION AND THE GREEN AND GOLD**

On 30 September 1907 a motion was carried at a general meeting that the club compete in the local district completion.

On 1 October 1907 it was decided that the club's name would be changed from the New Marylebone Cricket Club to the Brighton Union Cricket Club and the colours will be Green and Gold.

**BRIGHTON SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER dated 19. OCTOBER, 1907 reported**

**BRIGHTON DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION**

**Brighton Union's first ever match**

**BRIGHTON UNION V. EAST CAULFIELD.**

## BRIGHTON UNION

### FIRST INNINGS.

E. Hansen	12
T. Hands	32
L. Vincent	6
G. Bowman	13
J. McCorkell	0
J. Walsh	1
B. Cheeseman	1
A. Cheeseman	2
T. Ashton	16
J. McCormack, not out	0
V. Thomas	6
Sundries	6

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Total ..... 89 (sic.)

Bowling :- Wunderley 0 for 24, McInnes 4 for 27, O'Sullivan 2 for 14, Mercer 4 for 16.

### SECOND INNINGS.

E. Hansen	6
L. Vincent, not out	2
G. Bowman, not out	8

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Total for one wicket ..... 18 (sic.)

Bowling :- McInnes 1 for 9, Muirhead 0 for 6, Wunderley 0 for 1.

### EAST CAULFIELD

D. Fox	1
J. O'Sullivan	1
N. Jones	3
E. Wood	1
R. Wunderley	4
A. Mercer	4
N. Bourne	3
B. Muirhead	0
S. Senior	1
Crosby	4
Y. Burns, not out	0
Sundries	1
Total	23

Bowling :- Bowman 4 for 8, Hands 5 for 14.