



Pharmacy Cricket

The Six States National Cricket Carnival Bowral NSW 23rd – 26th Jan 2008

What was considered ‘mission impossible’ some time ago the Pharmacy Cricket Carnival played in the southern highlands of New South Wales at the home of cricket Bowral proved to be an outstanding success with New South Wales the winners of the historic ‘Shield’ for the 2007 – 2008 season.

Six teams of pharmacists from each of the six states, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia played over four days on Bradman Oval Bowral, Chater Oval Mittagong and Camden Park for the right to hold the 100 year old trophy,

‘The Chemists Interstate Challenge Cricket Shield’

The newcomers to this competition South Australia and Western Australia ensured it was a National Pharmacy event and a ‘first time’ for Pharmacy Cricket.

It is worth noting that ABC cricket commentators Jim Maxwell and Kerry O’Keeffe reported on the Pharmacy Cricket Carnival during description of the Test match in Adelaide.

Matches were played over four days with some outstanding performances and very exciting finishes. A unique and perhaps an event that should be reported in Wisden, was the match Tasmania v Victoria played on Thursday 24th at Chater Oval. Victoria batting first scored 8 for 151 in their 50 overs. Tasmania in reply were 3 for 12 after 8 overs, and 9 for 98 after 29 overs. Alex Saunders having retired at the obligatory 50 was able to resume his innings, Alex set about a batting display of which Adam Gilchrist would have been proud. With three sixes and untold fours Alex blasted the bowling attack and with two fours in the 34th over won the match for Tasmania and remained 103 not out. Alex scored his 103 off 64 balls and of the last 55 runs Alex scored 53. Alex scored 46 runs in the last 5 overs and his effort is all the more incredible as the Tasmania team score included six ducks! This

is the first time a century has been scored in Pharmacy Cricket. Alex was awarded the 'Batsman of the Carnival' trophy.

The match New South Wales v Queensland played at Chater Oval on Friday 25th proved a nail biter. Chasing the Queensland team total of 156 scored in 47 overs New South Wales were 3 for 39, then 7 for 86 and facing defeat. With Anthony BouAntoun's dismissal for 31 in the 45th over all seemed lost until Steve Thompson and Chris Georges held out and scored the three runs required for victory in the last over of the day. With his 3 for 26 and 24 not out Chris Georges was 'Man of the Match'.

New comers Western Australia displayed their cricket skills by defeating Tasmania on Friday 25th at Bradman Oval. Nick Partridge 55 and Swarup Afsar 54 not out and 6 for 11 for Western Australia v Tasmania were outstanding Adam Schulz 41 and Steven Morgan, going in at number four, remained 39 not out deserved praise for their efforts for Tasmania. Western Australian captain Swarup Afsar was named 'Player of the Carnival'

Other notable performances were the innings of Peter Jones 54 retired, Jason Roberts 51 retired for Queensland v South Australia and Trent Laslett's 48 for South Australia in the same match. Steve White 50 retired and David Ford's 41 in the match for Victoria v Western Australia. Also Jeff Facey's 52 retired and 5 for 39 in the match Victoria v Tasmania. Henry Goldstein 3 for 7 for Queensland v South Australia. New father Paul Wickham took 2 for 3 for Victoria v Western Australia. Ben Chalmers 2 for 7 for Tasmania v Victoria. Mark White 43 retired for NSW v South Australia
The final saw John Obaid score 77 not out, Peter Mikhail 67 and Tim Sidgreaves 61 not out for NSW and Chris Georges taking 6 for 17 off 10 overs gave Chris 'Bowler of the Carnival'

The 'Welcome' BBQ at Bradman Oval on Wednesday evening was a great event and allowed all the players and the many supporters to enjoy an evening of fellowship in this wonderful place.

The Australia Day Saturday night 'Trophy Presentation' dinner was the highlight of the Carnival with guest speakers Neil Harvey and Sam Loxton members of the great 1948 team the 'Invincibles' presenting the Carnival trophy to New South Wales Captain David Sidgreaves. Over 140 were present, making the night the largest gathering at a post match 'Pharmacy Cricket' event. The other awards 'Player of the Carnival', 'Batsman and Bowler of the Carnival' were presented by Neil and Sam with the assistance of Brain Booth. Ken Bickle presented the Guild Travel Shield for the match

NSW v Queensland and Greg Hodgson, Pharmacy Cricket President, was the MC for the evening.

The evening concluded with a spirited auction for an autographed and framed print of Bradman Oval and the singing of the National Anthem.

A truly magnificent Carnival enjoyed in wonderful weather in the delightful Southern Highlands of New South Wales.

Extract from an article that appeared in the
February 1st Edition of the Southern Highlands
News titled
‘Cricket over the counter’
Reporting the Pharmacy Cricket Carnival

One pharmacist to publicly express his enjoyment was Queenslander Henry Goldstein.

Mr Goldstein was at the Carnival dinner at Craigieburn Resort last Saturday night with his colleagues and spoke of just what it meant to him and his colleagues around Australia.

Working in pharmacy is a type of profession where you don’t work together with colleagues that much. “In that sense it can become a lonely existence behind the counter,” he said.

‘This has just been unbelievable to meet former players like Neil Harvey and Sam Loxton and also to interact and bond with people of a similar profession, whether they are from Byron Bay or Perth.’