



The Carbiner



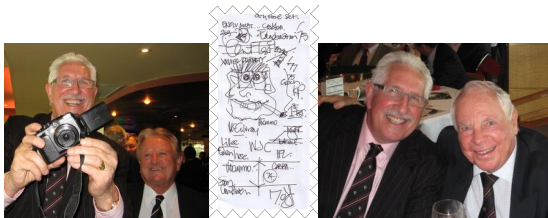
FOR SPORT AND FOR GOOD FELLOWSHIP: 37-2010

Carbine Club of Queensland Cricket Luncheon & Bill Brown Medal Award

Over pre-lunch drinks at the Queensland Cricketers' Club on Monday November 22, members – including several visitors from the Carbine Clubs of PNG and Singapore – and their guests were privileged to see the ground staff painstakingly prepare the pitch for the first Ashes Test to start three days hence.

Ian Healy, CCQLD member and MC for the day, was quickly into stride; as adept with a microphone as he was with the 'keeper's gloves [and the bat].

Guest of Honour on the day, Max Walker, needed little introduction. A member of The Carbine Club since 1980 and president 1999-2000, the former Test quick and AFL player has assisted CCQLD at previous functions. Indeed, Max is so well known and accepted in the Sunshine State, he was on deck long before the official start, renewing acquaintances and joining groups for photos while snapping a few for himself.



Max with Geoff Lane and CCQLD Patron Harry Gordon

From his speech notes that appear above, Max captivated his audience as he interwove many strands of his sporting life: contact and relationships with team and opposition players, umpires, members of the royal family, media personalities ...

He took the audience along the trail of a cricketing life: at school, through grade cricket to State level and on to the Test arena, with the cricket community glued together by the team cap. Max related how he "chased his dream", and reached for a glass of water to clear his throat as he made mention of the occasion when he received the "Baggy Green", and the mutual pride when he showed his father.

It was Max to the max.



Max fraternising with committee members and guests.

Queensland cricket chairman of selectors, Ray Phillips, shared a lot of memories from his wicket-keeping days and was most expansive when talking about The Bulls chances over the coming season.

Fresh from a media briefing on the forthcoming test, renowned cricket writer Robert Craddock was able to speculate on the Australian team. As a close friend of the late Bill Brown, Robert also spoke about Bill's personal relationship with Don Bradman: in-club stories that make Carbine Club lunches so special.

Interviewed by Ian Healy, former Test umpire Lou Rowan was highly amusing as he told of how he "never had a problem with the players in my 25 test matches, they had problems with me". Lou added that he simply interpreted cricket rules though his formidable experience as a member of the Queensland constabulary. The assembled gathering did feel some sympathy with tail-end batsmen at the end of Lou's discourse.



Ian Healy with Sam Truloff and Lou Rowan

As he presented the Bill Brown Medal and \$5000 to 17-year-old Sam Truloff, Ian Healy mentioned that it is easy to identify talent but harder to support it, and that is why the annual Queensland Carbine Club award is precious to a 'rising star'.

In accepting the award, Sam spoke with poise and eloquence beyond his years. He had completed Year 12 the week prior to the lunch, and forewent *Schoolies* to train in pursuit of his dream: a Baggy Green Australian cap. The Bill Brown Award will assist Sam materially, but, in years to come, his exposure at a Carbine Club luncheon to the inspiration of Ian Healy and Max Walker should prove immeasurable.



Sam Truloff and Sam Trimble, Australian first-class cricketer who played for the Queensland Bulls between 1959/60 and 1975/76, in front of a picture of Don Bradman.