

## **Edition 8 19th November 2007**

Welcome to the sandpit, the only place where you hear everything second. Yes it is I, Steve Abbott, the boy man, with nose so sharp it can cut meat, a stomach like commercial radio because everytime I look down all my favourite meals from the 70's 80's and 90's are right there, comin at ya. Yes friends I'm important to the club because I am the pilot fish of the Eastern Suburbs Cricket, I attach myself to larger more important fish and use their confidence and skill for personal gain, rather like the National Party does with the Liberals. This ability to lurk gives me access to things not everyone else sees. I shed charisma easily so it appears I'm not even present thus I'm able to pick up grumbles from the disenchanted and store this information until I can use it against them later.

Usual squabbles aside we've moved from 14th to 8th to 6th and now 5th in club championship quicker than Owen Ridge moves to an afternoon tea table. The plan to create the worlds youngest grade cricket club is suddenly paying dividends. In my five years with the senior club this is the most spirit we've had.

Of course this can also disappear faster than a Glen McCanna sandwich. Post match functions have all been well attended and we had more supporters than Sydney at the inaugural PGs match at Drummoyne Oval. What's more we won.

To capitalise on this new found carnival atmosphere I'm happy to announce a new social event, that is, the inaugural Simpleton tennis tournament to take place Sun, Feb 24th. We seek 32 club members and friends to become 16 doubles teams that play off to become our first Simpleton tennis champions. The first 32 players to register go into a draw to decide who plays with whom. We will establish a TOTE so everyone is involved. Of course there will drinks, food and Steve Warner after wards. The tournament is to be held at the Palms Courts located behind Paddo Bowling Club, so keep watching for information about when to register.

Congratulations to Luke Bower's 2nd grade side who are, socially speaking, and cricket wise, leading the way for the Dolphins. Good times, lots of laughs and impressive cricket. Their innovative "lock in" was deemed a success by all that attended. I urge every grade to organise a lock in this year. Personally I'd rather be beaten up by skinheads than confined in a demountable with some of our second graders but then again I wasn't invited.

It was also wonderful to see Luke, the unofficial Prince of Cranbrook, surrounded by young ex Cranbrookians at Paddo RSL recently, hanging on his every word. Cranbrook has long been a nursery for us, in fact our own President is an old boy. The East's Blazer (obtained from any St Vincent De Paul's straight after the HSC ) has even been adopted as our club's blazer Speaking of the Pres never get a lift with him in his new, borrowed Porsche. Not only does his drive faster than the speed of doubt but the bucket seats are abnormally close, so even the shortest journey is a very tactile experience, especially when he's trying to find reverse.

As I move around the grounds it's good to see lots of players making fools of themselves. James Gailbrath's long, loud and lonely appeal at Trumper several weeks ago stands out, After been given out LBW Lee Kirk telling me (in between taking his short, sharp, gasps of air) that in third grade every time

the ball hits the pads you're out, that was a moment to savour. Seeing Paul Sutherland surprise himself by the volume, length and tone of a series of farts he released was worth the drive to Trumper. Jim Smith cheating in the quiz always a great moment. Jim looks up the answers when he buys the paper then pretends he hasn't peeked. Dodgers Soccer skills at Waverley oval continue to amuse. I'm not alone when I say Dodger is the more interesting than his owner. Owen Ridge, our first grade scorer is always worth a look. I'm planning to set up a hide at Waverley so small groups can observe Owen without his knowledge. Brad Chilko saying (after I complimented him on his skull at a post match function) "that was easy because it was only a middy" was memorable..I predict a long career for Brad at Easts. Listening to Dave Warner giving a group including, Wayne Geber, Dave Richards and myself some financial advice at the Sheaf, eg, Woolworths are a better company than Colgate because they have more products, was incredible. And for a nice quiet night out who could go past the Wollahara Hotel with Chris Shepard and Adam Ritchard. Here's a snippet of the chat

Adam; What will we have for dinner?

Chris;. Don't know? What do u feel like?

Adam; Don't care.

For bookings please contact Sandpit (be early tickets selling fast)

There is also a job opportunity at the Dolphins ie, a butler for Steve Warner. Is there another player in the history of the grade game that calls for the twelfth man as often as S Warner? It's starts after only 4 overs have gone with a request for gloves, then after 2 more overs he wants a cap, then a can of fanta. If stays out longer than 20 overs he often wants a Pad Thai to eat while he's at the non strikers end. Applications to the board.

On a personal note I'd like to apologise for my own offspring letting down the club with a chronic hamstring tear. Sadly we are from a long line of people with abnormally short hamstrings. I've been picking up my undies with my toes since I was 25 and I have been unable to ride a horse since my teens because my legs just won't stretch that wide, so it's my fault, well imy great grandfathers fault. Apparently the reason he had to leave Russia in hurry was because he was caught trying to steal a flexible mans adductors. For Kirk Rimmers sake the Adductors are located on the inside of your thigh.

Finally the Sandpit is going multi media. Not only will the Sandpit be soon available on You Tube I'm in the process of organising the Presidents Site inspections. The President turns up at your home, unannounced, and films the state of your bedroom, fridge, bath towels, toilet and so on. Despite your protestations we start filming the moment the door opens. Edited highlights will be posted on the East's web site and the left over bits will be sold on e bay

Just remember disappointment is a wonderful fertiliser.