

# 2016 'Blue & Gold' Cricket Luncheon

The 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive 'Blue & Gold' Cricket Luncheon was held at The Ivy Ballroom on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The welcome address highlighted the Sydney Uni Cricket Club's new facilities:

- The Sydney Uni N°1 Oval has never looked so good in the month of November. It is getting rave reviews from the umpires and is showing the full benefit of an off-season without rugby games and rugby practice sessions.
- The Martin Lambert indoor cricket centre has added a new dimension to pre-season training and to cricket practice during inclement weather.
- The new outdoor practice nets will be fully operational before the end of November and they have already attracted bookings from the New South Wales Sheffield Shield squad and from both the Australian and South African Women's cricket teams.
- The Sydney Uni Cricket Club now has world class indoor and outdoor practice facilities, as well as an oval of representative cricket standard.



SUCC Chairman, Max Bonnell, introduced the 2016 SUCC Hall of Fame inductees: the late Joseph Coates, John Grimble and John Saint. The two Johns were then interviewed by Adam Spencer.

The first entertainment segment was entitled 'SUCC Hall of Fame' and the Club Chairman, Max Bonnell, introduced the three 2016 inductees by referencing *Summertime Blues*, the comprehensive book which he co-authored with James Rodgers on 150 years of Sydney University Cricketers.

**Joseph Coates** represented NSW with great success (76 1<sup>st</sup> Class wickets at an average of less than 12). Between 1866 and 1885 he took 501 1<sup>st</sup> Grade wickets for Sydney Uni at an average of little more than 8. The former Yorkshireman was reputedly the first to bowl fullish deliveries at the batsman's block hole and they came to be known as "yorkers"! He was the headmaster of both Newington College and Sydney High School.

**John Grimble** and **John Saint** were both fantastic bowling allrounders. Grimble won the prestigious *Sydney Morning Herald* Grade Cricketer of the Year Award (now known as the O'Reilly Medal) for the 1987-88 season. Saint won it in two consecutive seasons in the mid-1990s. Both were wonderfully passionate about and grateful for their time at the Sydney University Cricket Club.

John Grimble was never one to shirk his task – he once bowled an unchanged 42 overs on a steamy day at Hurstville Oval to collect 6 for 104! Thank goodness we had recently changed from 8 to 6 ball overs!

John Saint said that he came to the SUCC from Blacktown, hoping that the intellectual lifestyle would rub off on him. However, he volunteered that he thought the reverse happened and his Blacktown upbringing might have rubbed off on a few students!



Audience reaction to the entertainment provided by Adam Spencer's panels was extremely positive!

Later in the afternoon, Adam Spencer moderated an exceptionally entertaining and thought-provoking panel discussion with:

- **Shaun Pollock**, the remarkable South African international who was recognised at various times throughout his stellar career as the world's N°1 Test Bowler, Test Allrounder, ODI Bowler and ODI Allrounder.
- **Stuart MacGill**, the old fashioned operator with a gargantuan leg break; a majestic wrong'un and the best strike rate of any modern spin bowler.
- **Mike Coward**, the world renowned cricket writer, commentator and interviewer.



Shaun Pollock, Mike Coward and Stuart MacGill were sensational at parrying Adam Spencer's questions

Topics ranged from Australia's capitulation in the first two Test matches of the summer; respect for the baggy green cap; the lack of a succession plan for the Australian team; the issue of ball tampering; the evolution of cricket bats into weapons of mass destruction and the relative unimportance of statistics when cricketers reflect on the highlights of their playing days.

There were a lot of very good panels at the previous twenty-one 'Blue & Gold' Cricket Luncheons, but this one was right up there with the very best of them.

At the luncheon, the Cricket Division of the University of Sydney Sport Foundation announced the launch of the MOS Cricket Scholarship (named in honour of the late Mick O'Sullivan). It will be awarded in perpetuity from 2017 onwards to a promising male spin bowler who is playing for the Sydney University Cricket Club and is successfully pursuing studies at the University.

During the course of the afternoon, the following luncheon guests pledged tax deductible donations totalling \$16,000 towards the MOS Cricket Scholarship:

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| • Piyush Bhatt   | • Geoff Lovell    |
| • Max Bonnell    | • Chris McRae     |
| • Arnold D'Souza | • Greg Mail       |
| • Mark Faraday   | • Judy O'Sullivan |
| • John Kilford   |                   |

Also attached to the covering email is a MOS Cricket Scholarship document which invites contributions from all members and supporters of the Sydney University Cricket Club. Given the terrific response to the MOS Cricket Scholarship initiative at the luncheon, there is every chance that there will eventually be sufficient tax deductible donations for two MOS Cricket Scholarships. How good would that be?

Inspired by the 'Blue & Gold' Cricket Luncheon, the Australian Cricket Team went on to win the third Test against South Africa and Sydney Uni's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade team comfortably defeated competition leaders Gordon on their home track! The 2016-17 cricket season could well be another Belvidere Cup triumph for the students.

Happy Christmas.

Rod Tubbs

T: +61 2 9351 7958

M: +61 402 003 042

F: +61 2 9351 4962

[r.tubbs@sport.usyd.edu.au](mailto:r.tubbs@sport.usyd.edu.au)