

# Practice Makes Pitch Perfect ... When at

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Well it was another beautiful Darwin dry season day that dawned was the Law Society President's XI annual cricket match challenge

For the past two years His Honour has managed to weave mention upon mention of his two dubious victories, both of the narrowest of margins, into every available occasion. Few will have failed to hear the glee of consecutive victories emanating from the sixth floor, and the mere thought of a hat trick in 2013 and the self congratulation and back patting that would surely follow was all the driving force the President's team required.

The day started bright and sunny, blue sky with a mild breeze and a few drifting grey clouds that did not result in the rain that their Honours may have been praying for. Madam President, wishing to spare His Honour any embarrassment, had graciously offered His Honour an early exit by suggesting that he may wish to concede defeat upon seeing the magnificent line-up of players and super-subbs she had amassed.

However, His Honour graciously declined and maintained that his team, including all of the male

Judges of the Supreme Court, would come through. For once, His Honour's judgment was just a little bit askew.

Resplendent in their white Law Society President's XI team polo shirts, which did not go unnoticed by the opposition, the President's team was sent into bat, and my goodness, they batted. They strolled to the crease, looking every inch a force to be reckoned with, and with the exception of the President herself who was following a hidden tactical agenda; her team were on top form, hitting a volley of boundaries during their innings. His Honour's team bowled well and kept a defensive field but was really no match for the stunning and superb hidden talent they faced.

The best of the President's batsmen included Jonathan Hunyor, Alistair Wyvill SC, Marty Aust, Matthew Hubber, Tom Winter, Peter Elliot, Bill Piper, Greg Phelps, Rabminda Roy, Kellie Grainger, Nick Johansen, and last but not least, our Attorney-General, John Elferink MLA.

Meanwhile, the President, ever respectful of His Honour and the 'mature' composition of his team, did her best to lull His Honour into a false sense of security by giving away almost a half-century all by herself.

The President's team finished their innings with 106 runs, notwithstanding the President giving away runs as quickly as they were scored; thank goodness she only batted for four overs. So appreciated was the President's feat that she was named the best player for the Chief Justice's team; a badge of honour she now proudly wears.

The ladies on the Chief Justice's team did him proud; both Crystal Triggs and Catherine Giles were excellent bowlers and fielders. How can they not be, when they were responsible for the President being dismissed on 10 occasions? Well done ladies!

The competition was on and then alas, disaster struck as His Honour was forced to retire from the field suffering an injury, and was ruled

# first you don't succeed, try and try again!

## for the hotly contested Top End Legal Ashes. Yes you have it; it ge to the Chief Justice's XI.

out of the batting side. Back at the pavilion, ice, tea and sympathy, ice, pain killers and more ice were applied to a clearly battered and bruised pride and spirit, not to mention 'that injury.' No amount of money changing hands, or smooth talking the official scorer, Sue Erickson, could reverse the fate that was in store.

Noting His Honour's incapacity, and her incapability, the President did not take to the field after tea, deciding that she have given His Honour's team sufficient help, and her own team more than enough embarrassment. Luckily, Dodie from NAAJA who had travelled up from Katherine was kind enough to stand in.

His Honour's team made a valiant effort in the run chase, but once again the President's XI was superb in the field. Deserving of a special mention is the Northern Territory Attorney-General, who threw himself around on the field and bowled exceptionally well. Mr Attorney was perhaps the most grass-stained and overworked looking player at the end of the

game, and his efforts and energy were very much appreciated.

His Honour's team was filled with a mix of experience and youth, including but not limited to Rex Wild QC, their Honours, Riley, Southwood, Barr and Hiley; O'Neill Padilla, Catherine Giles, Crystal Triggs, Tom Cleary and others. All batted valiantly against an attacking field, but the score of 106 runs was simply too large a target and a batting collapse ensued, ending their innings with 55 runs at stumps.

Both the CJ and the President learned a valuable lesson from this match. The moral of the day was that just because it was the President's XI versus the CJ's XI, it does not mean that the President or the CJ has to actually play on the day. Perhaps our teams would be better served in future with us being absent from the field, cheering from the sidelines and being in charge of drinks, food, and team polo shirts.

I wish to express my thanks to all of those who came to the match,

players and spectators alike. I wish to thank my chairman of selectors, Solicitor General, Mr Michael Grant QC; Marty Aust, Captain of the President's XI, members of the Warratah Cricket Club who kindly opened the bar and provided food at the Waratahs Club House at Gardens Oval, and Law Society staff for organising.. I also extend my gratitude to Rex Wild QC who so gamely took a golden duck for the opposition and was again instrumental in organising the CJ's team; and the Chief Justice and other Judges who were such good sports and made the day possible. It was a most enjoyable day of cricket with good company, great sportsmanship, excellent refreshments, and of course the right team won!

So, a victory for the President's team at last! Following a two years drought, the trophy for the cricket match has finally found its way back to its rightful home at the Law Society, and long may it stay in the Society President's keeping.

Bring it on for 2014! ■