

AUSTRALIA vs ENGLAND TEST MATCH

HELD ON 29TH MARCH 2009

AT

WINDSOR POLO CLUB

THE DAY WAS STUNNING IN NEAR PERFECT CONDITIONS, BLUE SKIES, RIGHT TEMPERATURE AND A GREAT CROWD.

THE MATCH WAS CLOSE WITH A TIGHT FINISH WITH THE HOSTS COMING OUT ON TOP.

After playing the Elleston finals the day before the players loaded up their horses and in the early hours of Sunday drove some five hours to the Windsor fields at Richmond to play for their country. The Australian team of Glen Gilmore [Captain], Rob Archibald, Ed Gould and William White [18 goals] played Ollie Cudmore, Sam Gairdner, James Harper and Jamie Le Hardy [18 goals]



Windsor had weeks of rain and so the grounds were in tip top condition. The sponsors, Fairfax Media had advertised the game widely in the various publications making the grounds full of ardent spectators in Marques, and car parking on the Eastern side of the ground. Form the boots of their cars they could lunch and watch the game.

The “curtain raiser” was a colt’s match between the up and coming players, under 25 who showed the crowd a dazzling game revealing the talent the game needs for the future.

The International teams played for the MOUNTBATTEN MEMORIAL TROPHY, which was presented to Windsor Polo Club in 1979 by the Countess Mountbatten of Burma in memory of her father who was the Windsor Polo Club Patron. It has been played for by teams of Australia vs England, and Australia vs India (where he was the last Viceroy and 1st Governor General). It was also played for when Prince Charles played in 1979 and when Prince Harry played in 2003. The young England team in which Prince Harry played won by 2 goals in teaming rain final score Aus 4 vs Eng 6 but on every other occasion Australia has won by a margin of 1 goal on each occasion.

It was another close match of the teams, which always makes for an exciting game.



England opened the scoreboard in the 1st chukka scoring twice before Rob Archibald scored for Australia. The second chukka saw Australia leveling the score and the scoreboard remained level at the end of the second, third and fourth chukkas. At this point, it looked like the English were in a winning position.

Then Glen Gilmore mounted the Champion Pony, 18yr old grey 'Salabre', owned by Robin and Michael Fitz-Henry in the 5th chukka and that was the turning point in the match. The horse galloped the length of the field giving Glen a perfect platform and was truly instrumental in setting Australia ahead at the end of the 5th. Australia held their lead in the final chukka despite valiant efforts by the England team. Harper and Le Hardy never gave up making the game right to the last.



Ollie Cudmore and William White, both under 21, representing their respective countries for the first time, played extremely well and no doubt gained valuable experience. Ed Goold, who had won Most Valuable Player at Elleston the previous day, played another superb game and his string of ponies were outstanding. Rob Archibald, superbly mounted, made the English work hard for every shot. However it was the captaincy of Gilmore that turned the tide as he has so often done in internationals for his country.



It was a perfect autumn day of top quality polo and wonderful hospitality. Spectators were having such a marvelous time stomping in at half time that they had to be repeatedly "encouraged" back to the sidelines over the loudspeaker. As so often happened on these days old players remembered games they had played and how "it isn't the game now that it was when they played"

John Wayland, the President of Windsor, acknowledged the enormous contribution made to Australian Polo by the Packer family, a contribution which went back to Sir Frank. However it was the support of the horses from Elleston that had made international polo possible over the last 10 years and it was for those efforts especially and to the preparation of Jim Gilmore that John paid special thanks. Mrs Ros Packer was asked to accept the badge of a Life member and was presented with another for "KP" to be placed in the Trophy cabinet at Elleston for him.





John on behalf of the Club also asked and Ian Mc Duie to accept life membership as a foundation member and one who had travelled so far so often to be the commentator for over 30 years at Internationals . “He has given a life time of service to the game, not only as a commentator but also as an administrator and the game owes him a debt and acknowledgement” said John. In so doing the Club also acknowledged the support of Ian’s’ wife so

making Rosie McDuie a life member.

Mrs. Ros Packer presented the trophy to the Australians and the English team received mementos.

Jim Hoskins presented the Hoskins –Pagan trophy for Champion horse which was presented to Glen Gilmore for Salabre.

The “after –party” was till raging at 3.00 o’clock and would have continued until dawn had not the law intervened.

“This had been a difficult test to put together under the circumstances of the economy and Windsor acknowledges the support of the horse lenders such as Elliston and Joe Curran, to name but two, the players who drove so far to represent their country and the committee members who ensure every detail is covered” said John.

Windsor Polo Club will soon have a DVD of the match available on the website www.wpc.org.au



<u>Score After Chukka Number</u>	<u>Australia</u>	<u>England</u>
1	1	2
2	2	2
3	4	4
4	5	5
5	7	6
6	8	7

Goal Number/Player Scored By

P = scored from penalty

	<u>Australia</u>	<u>England</u>
William White		
Robert Archibald	3 4 9	
Glen Gilmore	6 11	
Ed Goid	5 14	
Ollie Cudmore		7p 8 13p
Jamie Le Hardy		2 10
James Harper	12	1
Sam Gairdner		15
Umpires: Kelvin Johnson (AUS) Cooch Lynch (NZ) 3rd Umpire: Dick Doolin (AUS)		

**The Pagan-Hoskins Trophy - Champion Pony (judged by Adam Buchert)
'Salabre'**

Owned by Robin and Michael Fitz-Henry Ridden by Glen Gilmore

