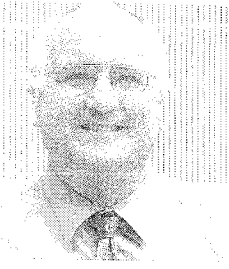


THE EAR

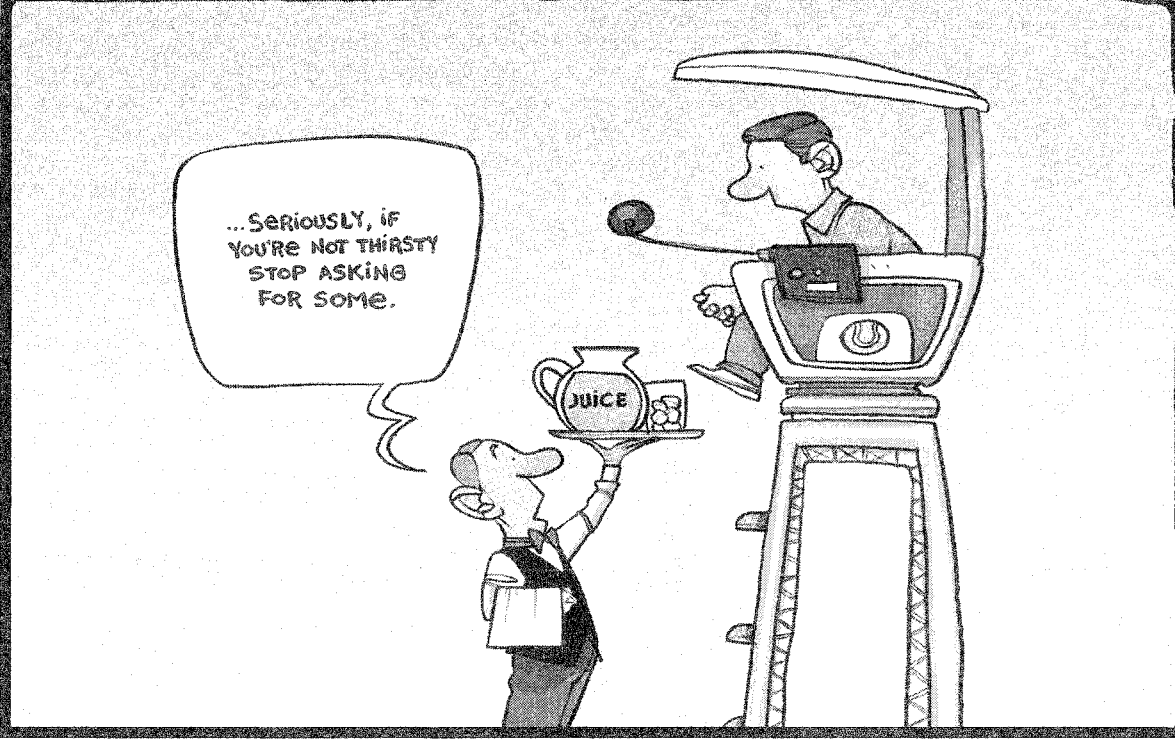
The inside word on sport with Mark Oberhardt



...but that other great game, the law

oberhardtm@qnp.newsltd.com.au

SIDELINE with Brett Lethbridge



In the know

AT last count we had 26 replies to our poser about whether a cricketer makes a century on debut if it is in his second innings. About 95 per cent of readers believed he does. Probably the most definitive answer was from sports historian Wayne Hollis who wrote: "My understanding of a cricketer making a century on Test debut is it includes both innings. Since cricket statistics were recorded from the very first Test there have been 86 cricketers from all Test-playing nations who have scored a century on debut. Of these 86 players, 25 players have scored a Test century in their second innings. The last most notable Australian Test player to score a century in his second innings was Dirk Wellham in 1981 at the Oval. He scored 24 in the 1st innings then 103."

KEITH SHARPE asks: "I saw your mention of Valdaroy (The Ear, Jan 25) and I am his trainer Jim Tedman's grandson. Could you remind me of Valdaroy's record?"

ANSWER: Valdaroy (St Constant-Star Ruby) was one of the best Creekers produced after WWII. He won 15 races and 11 of those were at Albion Park where he had 83 starts. Valdaroy won a maiden at Doomben in November 1951 and had his last start almost 10 years later. Valdaroy's winning jockey included Fred Clarke, Noel Best, Whopper Stephens, Val Faggotter, Ne Birrer, Mick Finn, and Merv Wrigley. He won four 1st Division races at Albion Park.

KEV MAHER had additional information on former star Queensland league centre Ron Tait (The Ear, Jan 18 and 11) Kev reports Tait was an Innisfail product but had a stint in Toowoomba under Duncan Thompson and first played for Queensland from there. He had a season (1960) in Rockhampton on his way back to North Queensland. Tait joined Uniteds at Innisfail as their captain-coach and was also Innisfail captain-coach for many years. We are told Tait and his Queensland centre mate Alan Gill are the welfare officers for the Far North Branch of Men of League.

GEOFF SHEPHARD asks: "We were talking about a well-performed juvenile named Nice Surprise which raced in Brisbane in the early 1970s. We thought he was taken to Sydney and raced in a Golden Slipper."

ANSWER: Trained by Alby Pratt, Nice Surprise (Lysander II-Hazel Eyes) was rated by some experts as one of the

grandfather and Nathan's great-grandfather were once snapped together in a photograph at the Wondai Turf Club back in 1924.

Homes general manager Michael Jones, who is also a club coach, suggested his company could build it for \$100,000. The club could then build a second structure - a pavilion with toilets and secure storage.

THE biggest-ever gathering of Queensland golf club officials is expected at the Brisbane Convention Centre on Wednesday for the launch of the new statewide amateur competition - My Perfect Round. Wayne Grady, David Nolan and "Snapper" McLean will present the idea, which features several revenue-raising avenues for golf clubs. It will be linked with six months of competitions for players of all levels. A fourball ambrose final will be at Royal Pines, with the winning club standing to benefit by \$50,000.

INTERESTING debate ahead as Cricket Australia is determined to proceed with a city-based Twenty20 competition in two years' time which will include the likes of the Gold Coast and Geelong. But many believe the Northern Territory and ACT should be included instead and cricket would then have the first truly national competition. It is worth noting the NT side that won the national country championship contained two 19-year-olds tipped to play first-class cricket.

AN example of how smart sports clubs get things done when MacGregor Cricket Club opened a new clubhouse and pavilion on Friday. With help from Courage Homes, it was able to build \$500,000 worth of buildings for about half the replacement value! The club got \$200,000 in grants to build a new amenities shed. However, Courage

YOUNG fast bowlers Ben Cutting and Scott Walter have been outstanding for the Bulls this season, and Queensland Cricket is keen to continue the production line. Former star Joe Dawes and Queensland Country icon Vic Williams are in Gladstone putting the speed gun on all-comers aged 12 and above as part of the Pace Bowling

Unit Road Show. The search will move to Gympie, Kingaroy and Warwick.

THERE will be some fascinating differing opinions when three of the sharpest minds and one of the sharpest tongues in cricket assemble on February 18. Innovative former Australian coach John Buchanan, Test great Greg Chappell, and former Queensland opener and sports commentator Andrew Courtice join the enigmatic Andrew "Roy" Symonds as speakers at the PKF Bulls Corporate Lunch. There might be a few extra numbers on the media table for this one. Call 3292 3119.

DIARY DATES: Bichel Oval in Laidley will host a reunion day for the Laidley District Cricket Club on Sunday. It is 10 years since Laidley-Ranges won both the Ipswich First Division and Second Division titles for the first time in a season.

Yeronga Australian Rules 100-year celebrations, July 17. Contact Tony D'Arcy 0411 668 532 or wolf@yerongafc.com.au

NOTICE GOOD OIL HORSE'S MOUTH HIGH-FLYERS

DRMED" league bad odd Carney won't any reminding of what

SOMEONE started a rumour that Queensland Cricket staff were on a

FOR the 100th time, it is Queensland Rail's fault the crossing access from the

THE Reds' new sponsor, St George Bank, has diverse interests. It also has the