



The Carbiner

"For sport and for good fellowship"



(Pic courtesy NZHOF)

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CARBINE CLUB

EDITION 2 of 2021- 4th March, 2021

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Peter Hudson - AFL Hall of Fame Legend and Carbine Club Member Honoured



The small town of New Norfolk in Tasmania's Derwent Valley is the birthplace of arguably AFL's best ever full forward, Peter Hudson, so recently the town decided to honour Peter by installing a bronze statue in Arthur Square in the centre of town.

Peter started his sporting career in New Norfolk mixing cricket, football and basketball and he went on to play for Hawthorn kicking 727 goals at an average 5.6 per game. He was the VFL Leading Goal kicker 4 times, All Australian twice, and played in two Hawthorn premierships.

After retiring from the AFL Peter played and coached in Tassie for a number of years and is fondly held as a sporting icon in his home state.

*Peter Hudson at the unveiling of the bronze statue –
Picture: James Bresnehan and courtesy "The Mercury"*

Carbine Club International Congress – Adelaide May 2022

In this edition you will find a note from Congress Chairman Lloyd Meredith seeking expressions of interest from those who may be interested in attending the Congress.

This is not a commitment – it just gets you on the mailing list for further info on this great Club event – fill out the EOI and return it by 21 March to get all the latest on Congress 2022!

Sixty Years of Sport and Good Fellowship

By Graham Halbish: Secretary of The Carbine Club Inc.

In this, our 60th year, I thought it timely to reflect on the origins of the Carbine Club as a tribute to our founders, a refresher for our long-term members and what may be of interest to newer colleagues. I am asked occasionally how our club started and why it is named Carbine Club. I feel sure other members have fielded similar queries and even been asked if we were a gun club! To recap on our history – from the horse’s mouth, so to speak – I’ll rely heavily on a letter of February 15, 1980, from Rig Davies to Trevor Craddock, today our sole surviving foundation member. My thanks go to Robin Flannery who previously compiled The Carbiner and other important Club publications his assistance.



Rig Davies



Trevor Craddock



Frank G Williams

Rig’s Letter:

“In the early sixties, both Frank [G. Williams] and I were on the Federal Executive of the Sportsmen’s Association of Australia, and one Friday night, after a game of snooker at the Association’s premises in Swanston Street, we were at the bar having a drink with Ted Rippon. Ted was telling us about a luncheon club to which he belonged, which met every Friday at Molina’s and was called The Untouchables; and he invited Frank and myself to be his guests at the club function the following Friday. The luncheon was enjoyable enough, but it dragged on till about five o’clock by which time we were a little under the weather, bread rolls were being hurled around the room and the latest dirty stories were being related with relish.

In those days – this was about June, 1961 – Frank and I used to have lunch together most Fridays at the Hotel Australia. The Friday following The Untouchables’ lunch, we met as usual at The Australia, and I remember the occasion with great clarity for it was during this lunch that the Carbine Club was born.

We naturally discussed the Molina’s lunch at some length, and came to the conclusion that whilst it had been good fun, it was the sort of occasion you might enjoy twice a year, but certainly not every week. At length, I said, “look Frank, we know between us a number of important business people, and of course, many people at the Sportsmen’s Association. Why don’t we form an opposition club? Similar, yet different, to The Untouchables; no dirty stories and no bread roll throwing.”

60 Years continued ...

We got hold of a couple of menus and each wrote down the names of the business acquaintances we would invite to become members. These were the lists:

Frank Williams:

Les Roche, Reg Talbot, Les Sartori, Alan Wilson, Clive Stoneham, Arthur Sayers, Francis Williams and Jack Rayner.

Rig Davies:

Trevor Craddock, Maurie Cavanough, George Hayes, Leigh Clark, Fred Lee-Stere, Laurie Smith, Bill Waller and Jack McConnell.

From the Sportsmen's Association we added the names of Bert Bryant, Harry Hopman, Jock Sturrock and Jimmie Johnson.

Having settled on the names of the people we would invite to become members; we turned our attention to a name for the Club. Our first thoughts were somewhat frivolous and inept, and I fancy this was due to the Scotch beginning to take effect. We were stumped, but looking again at the list of prospective members, we noted that several were actively engaged in racing and several others involved to a lesser degree. So, we changed tack and started to think in Racing terms ... and I started to recall the names of some early Melbourne Cup winners.

Archer: The Archer Club? No, it didn't sound right and was slightly ambiguous; Banker – no, the same applied; Patron, Arsenal, Chester, Revenue, Carbine, Malua ... Carbine, the Carbine Club? That was better. We repeated it several times, savored it, rolled it around on our tongues with the Scotch, wrote it down, noted that it had a quality ring about it, and decided that we would call the new Club "The Carbine Club".

A few weeks later I designed the Club tie in Carbine's racing colours of black, red and white, and had the first batch woven.

So, the Club was underway ... and it was at this stage that your suggestions to have a Guest of Honour as opposed to a guest speaker, and to limit the membership, were made and adopted.

It was about August or September 1961 that the very first, and now I suppose somewhat historic, Carbine Club Luncheon was held, at the Hotel Australia.

It is an interesting and sobering thought that **IF** Frank Williams and myself had not been in the Sportsmen's Club on that particular night in 1961, **IF** we hadn't accepted his [Ted Rippon's] invitation to an "Untouchables" lunch, then there would never have been a Carbine Club, for it was out of the bread rolls and the dirty stories and the wreckage of their lunch that the Carbine Club, phoenix-like, emerged.

As you know, Trevor, right from the very first day, we set out to make the Carbine a quality Club, and from what I hear, those early hopes and aspirations have been more than fulfilled; and it is gratifying to know that today The Carbine Club occupies a unique and honoured place in Australian society."

60 Years continued....

Trevor Craddock remembers Rig thus:

"Meurig, commonly known as Rig, was the Account Executive at advertising agency Hayco Publicity. Always full of ideas, he was an itinerant person and after looking after a boarding school in Alice Springs for a while returned to his beloved Wales and retired, but not in good health.

Rig was a remarkable, dedicated bachelor who could write, paint, and play musical instruments.

He showed an interest in everybody he met – a joy to know.

Although bought up in the UK a true blueblood, Meurig was quite at ease in the public bar".

VALE: COLIN "CC" MCDONALD

(By Graham Halbish, pic courtesy "Herald Sun")



Colin McDonald's battle with poor health in his latter years was fought with great courage and commitment, reminiscent of his halcyon days as an opening batsman for Australia.

For someone who entered a hospice some years ago with dim prospects from cancer, he took block and faced up to it with quiet determination and good humour, just as if he had donned the baggy green cap, once again. He passed away in January this year, aged 92.

My first recollections of him date back to the 1958/59 home Ashes series, where a formidable England team led by that fine batsman Peter May, were expected to take all before them. This was not to be as they were more than matched by Richie Benaud's young Australian side, in a series for the ages. Against a world class pace quartet of Trueman, Statham, Tyson & Loader, supported by spinners Laker & Lock, it was "CC" McDonald and his opening batting partner Jim Burke, that time and again blunted the England bowling attack.

Colin finished that summer as part of an Ashes winning Australian team with 519 runs at 64.67. The first batsman since Len Hutton in 1950/51 to exceed 500 runs in an Ashes series.

Next came the might of the West Indies in 1960/61. Now part of the folklore of Australian cricket, few among us remain unaware of the feats now legendary, of outstanding individual and team performances of skill, strength and sportsmanship, from both sides. Facing up to the sheer pace of the great Wes Hall, seemingly beginning his approach from somewhere in the vicinity of the sightscreen, was Colin McDonald unadorned with helmet, chest protectors, arm guards and the like. Just his cap, thin batting gloves and a "box" affording scant protection against Wes's thunderbolts. Battered and bruised but undaunted "CC" had another solid series, as did his teammate Ian Meckiff, in a short-lived but prolific career.

I count myself fortunate to have borne witness to this and more from up close at the "G", as a young boy then. And much later coming to know and enjoy Colin's company and friendship as a proud member of The Carbine Club, which he was for almost 60 years.

He richly deserved the accolade of being conferred with Honorary Membership of the Club at the Annual Dinner in 2012, alongside other sporting greats in Frank Sedgman & Peter Thomson. What a tremendous night that was.- RIP "CC".

VALE Jim Johnson (by Rod Fitzroy)

On the 25th of February, members of the Carbine Club mourned the passing of Australian Racing Hall of Fame inductee and long-standing member of both the Melbourne and South Australia clubs, Jim Johnson.

(Jim at left with Wolf Blass)

Jim was just a four year old lad when his father, Alf, a successful jockey was killed in a race fall at Oakbank in 1934. His mother later married Charlie Cox, a prominent jockey and the family moved to Western Australia where Cox enjoyed considerable success.



As a boy, Jim returned to Adelaide to be with his grandmother and, at that stage, had no ambitions of becoming a jockey. Sometime later, Stan Chapman, a trainer at Morphettville knocked on the door of Jim's grandmother's house and asked if Alf Johnson's son was staying with her. Stan invited Jim to go down to the stables initially just to have a look around but one suspects he had an ulterior motive, that was to encourage Jim to become an apprentice to him.

Jim embraced the challenge and so commenced a long and successful riding career. In those early days in Adelaide, Jim is remembered as having been a great jockey who outrode his apprentice claim, and one who didn't chase rides, they came to him. Jim had no real ambition to move from Adelaide but was offered the opportunity to ride Gatum Gatum in the 1963 Melbourne Cup by the owner (Malcolm Reid). Originally, Les Coles was engaged to ride Gatum Gatum but, after a poor run in the Moonee Valley Cup, asked to be released from his commitment so that he could ride Conference. It was Malcolm Reid who did the chasing not Jim but he did take that opportunity to ride in his first Melbourne Cup and, in so doing, set in train his elevation into the greats of Australian jockeys.



After the celebrations of Gatum Gatum's win, Jim returned to Adelaide and continued where he left off, riding winners and the thought of a second or even third Melbourne Cup victory seemed a remote possibility, but it was Malcolm Reid who once again engaged Jim to ride his great stayer Rain Lover to win the 1968 Melbourne Cup by 8 lengths, equaling the margin set by Archer in the very first Melbourne Cup of 1861.

(Returning to scale on Rain Lover – Melbourne Cup)

In 1969, both Jim and Rain Lover returned to Flemington. This time Rain Lover, with the Number 1 saddle cloth and burdened with a weight of 9st7lb was up against the heavily backed favourite Big Filou trained by Bart Cummings. Of course, Big Filou was sensationally withdrawn less than an hour from the start of the race and Rain Lover went onto win this time by a head and, in so doing, became the first back-to-back winner since Archer in 1861-2.

Jim Johnson cont....

Jim also enjoyed a successful association with another great of the Australian turf, Tobin Bronze, riding him to many victories including two Cox Plates (1966 and 1967) and the Caulfield Cup (1967). Jim also travelled with Tobin Bronze after he was sold to American interests and had one ride on him in the US. He also rode in Singapore between 1970 and 1973.

Apart from numerous South Australian Jockey Premiership wins, Jim won the Melbourne Jockey's Premiership in 1967 and retired from the saddle in 1976.

In a stellar career, Jim rode 2158 race winners, 125 feature race wins, including 36 at Group 1 level. To put Jim's career in context, only two jockeys (Bobby Lewis & Harry White) in the 160-year history of the race have won 4 Melbourne Cups. Jim (along with William McLachlan, Damien Oliver, Darby Monroe, Kerrin McEvoy and Glenn Boss) won 3.

Legendary racing commentator and journalist, Jack Styring, best described Jim, "A Gentleman Jockey".



From left - Jim Johnson, Mal Brown, Ray Selkrig and JJ Miller Jim and JJ first met in 1959 when JJ moved from Perth to Adelaide and they formed a long and firm friendship which transcended their rivalry in the saddle.

(Photo by Gordon Bennett)

Coming up.....

NZ – 5 March – America's Cup Preview Luncheon, Ellerslie Racecourse

ACT – 5 March – Canberra Racing Carnival Luncheon, National Press Club

NSW – 18 March - AGM and Members +1, Bellevue Hotel, Paddington (Rugby WC Celebration!)

VIC -25 March – MO Lunch at Grossi Florentine followed by drinks at Monaco House

QLD – 23 April – AGM

QLD – 24 April – 40th Anniversary of CCQ, Gold Coast Turf Club

SA – Goodwood Day Lunch, 14 May

VIC -15 July – CC Delegates Meeting, RACV and 60th Anniversary Dinner, Australian Club

VIC- 21 Sep – AFL Grand Final Luncheon, Crown Palladium

VIC - 29 October – VRC Derby Day Luncheon, Crown Palladium

ADELAIDE CONGRESS 2022 - NOTE FROM CONGRESS CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of The Carbine Club International Congress, Lloyd Meredith, advises Members of all Clubs that Expressions of Interest in attending the 2022 Congress in Adelaide will close on March 21st.

The Adelaide Congress Organising Committee needs to know if you are **interested in attending** – this is **not** a commitment to participate.

By way of reminder, the Congress will be held from 19-24 May 2022.

The highlights include:

- Accommodation at the Adelaide Intercontinental brilliantly located on North Tce – choice of rooms – breakfast included
- Opening Dinner at the historic Mortlock Library on North Tce
- Saturday Races at Morphettville featuring the classic Goodwood – private room right on the winning post – lunch and special entertainment
- A bbq lunch and visit to Coopers Brewery personally hosted by CCSA Life Member Glenn Cooper AM
- A day in Langhorne Creek visiting the Cube at d'Arenberg and lunch at Serafino Wines – hosted by the respective owners
- A visit to the Wolf Blass Wine Museum at Hahndorf – again hosted by the great man himself
- **Depending on match fixtures**, attending an AFL match at Adelaide Oval in the luxury of our private room
- Closing Night “spectacular” at the Adelaide Festival Centre



If you have not already done so, please complete and return to attached “Expression of Interest” form by March 21st.

Thanks everyone – see you in Adelaide!
Lloyd

ADELAIDE 2022

Carbine Club International Congress



2022 CARBINE CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

**ADELAIDE - SOUTH
AUSTRALIA**

Please complete
and return by 21
March, 2021

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

I AM INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE
2022 CARBINE CLUB CONGRESS

THIS PLACES YOU UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO ATTEND THE CONGRESS

(Please complete information below in UPPERCASE letters)

Member: _____

Partner: _____

Carbine Club: _____

Email: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____

☐ I have not attended a previous congress

Please send this completed form to:

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POST

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