



The Carbiner



FOR SPORT AND FOR GOOD FELLOWSHIP: 1-2011

To all members of Carbine Clubs, I extend best wishes for 2011: Our Golden Anniversary Year.

Malcolm Brown. President of The Carbine Club

As the Carbine fraternity celebrates a half-century of good fellowship, it is appropriate to acknowledge the foresight of our Club's founders. To that end, I rely on a letter dated February 15, 1980 from Meurig (Rig) Davies to Trevor Craddock: our sole surviving foundation member.

W J (Bill) Hoffmann, AM. Secretary of The Carbine Club

In 1961 Frank G. Williams and Rig Davies were on the Federal Executive of the Sportsmen's Association of Australia and were invited to a luncheon club which met every Friday at Molina's and was called The Untouchables. The luncheon was enjoyable enough, but it dragged on till about five o'clock by which time bread rolls were being hurled around the room and the latest dirty stories were being related with relish.

Frank and Rig used to have lunch together most Fridays at the Hotel Australia and the Friday following The Untouchables' lunch they met as usual. It was during that lunch that the Carbine Club was born. They 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, Rig 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."

They got hold of a couple of menus and each wrote down the names of the business acquaintances they 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 they added the names of Bert Bryant, Harry Hopman, Jock Sturrock and Jimmie Johnson.

Frank and Rig then turned their attention to a name for the Club. First thoughts were somewhat frivolous and inept, then they noted that several prospective members were actively engaged in racing and several others involved to a lesser degree. So they changed tack, and started to think in Racing terms ... and Rig 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. They repeated it several times, noted that it had a quality ring about it, and decided that they would call the new Club "The Carbine Club".

A few weeks later Rig 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 Trevor Craddock's 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 Carbine Club Luncheon was held, at the Hotel Australia. On Thursday, July 14, 2011 the celebratory 50 Year Dinner will be held at the RACV Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne.



Rig Davies



Trevor Craddock



Frank Williams



Bill Hoffmann & Mal Brown