Dear Andrew,

Hereewith is a copy of "Questions and Answers at the Interviews at UNSW Cricket Club Annual Dinner, 4 April 2009", bring it along to the Dinner.

I suggest that you get it typed, at least the section dealing with the early history of the Club, and put it in the Club's archives for posterity.

I understand that you will call for me at 6:30 pm and drive me home. I do drive but not when I have been drinking.

If there is anything you wish to discuss, don't hesitate to ring me. I am often out in the mornings until about 11:30.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Q1. I understand that you saw Sir Donald Bradman bat a number of times, did you?

A. Yes I did and I don't think that there will ever be anyone else to equal, let alone surpass, him. Recently I made a list of the 50 most important people in the western world in the past 5,000 years. In my list I had Alexander the Great, Archimedes, Julius Caesar, Joan of Arc, Galileo, Elizabeth I, Sir Francis Drake, Shakespeare, Catherine the Great of Russia, James Cook, and James Watt, who started the Industrial Revolution in 1769. My last name was Sir Donald Bradman. Recently at the wedding of my third grandson, who incidentally was best man at my second wedding my first wife died ten years ago. I was telling my fifth grandson about my list and he said I should have included Socrates and Aristotle and I had only included Bradman because of my interest in cricket. I disagreed, telling him that Bradman was the greatest sportsman in two hundred years, the only other person to come near him was Babe Ruth, the American baseballer of the 1920's and 1930's. I once saw a picture of Bradman and Ruth shaking hands in New York in 1932.

I am not going to summarize Bradman's achievements, but his average was more than 50% greater than anyone else's. Bradman hit the ball hard, but so do most modern batsmen like Hayden and Ponting. The difference is that Bradman placed the ball
that Bradman placed the ball so as to bisect the angle between two fieldsmen. When hooking, Bradman hooked into the ground and never got caught in the deep. He seemed to get it to the pitch of the ball more quickly than other batsmen. He had every shot in the book plus a few of his own. His best shots were the cover drive and the late cut. He often pulled balls from outside the off stump; he said that he learnt this shot playing on muddy wickets. I saw many long partnerships between Bradman and the New South Wales captain, Alan Dibley, who was a stylist; his but caressed the ball as he turned it to fine leg in contrast to Bradman's brutal aggression.

I saw Bradman make his 100th century at the Sydney Cricket Ground against India in November 1947; he turned a ball to leg in the last over before tea to bring up his century. Bradman rarely hit sixes, since he tended to drive along the ground, but after tea he scored 92 runs in 19 minutes, including four of the biggest sixes I have ever seen and I have seen many worthwhile hit some big ones.

Bradman's knowledge of cricket was so great that in my opinion he was Australia's greatest captain. I can give two examples of his good captaincy. In the 1936–37 season, he was appointed Australian captain. In the First Test he scored 38 and 0 and in the Second he made 0 and 32, losing the first two Test matches. In the Third Test he scored 13 in the first innings and rain came and he closed the innings at 9 for 200. The English bowled stubbornly, particularly Broad and Hammond, on an atrocious wicket. England closed at 9 for 76. In bad light with rain threatening Bradman decided to open with his number 10 and 11 batsmen, O'Reilly
and Fleetwood-Smith. The latter was so nervous he could not put his pads on. He said: "I don't hit 'em down." Bradman replied: "If I thought you could, I wouldn't be sending you in". O'Reilly was out first ball; Fleetwood faced 13 deliveries without hitting one and he had the longest innings of his life, being not out all week-end. On the Monday, he was out first ball and Bradman went on to score 270. In the Fourth Test Bradman scored 20 and 212, and in the Fifth he made 169. He is the only captain that I know of who lost the first two Tests and won the next three.

In a match against an Indian XI in 1947 Bradman said to his off-spinner Ian Johnson: "I'll take mid-on away and if Amanath comes out to drive the first four balls, give him a full-toss on his hip". Amanath plopped the ball to the vacant mid-on, while Bradman ran across from mid-off and caught the ball. Johnson said: "That's the first time I've been told to bowl a full toss to get a wicket."

Q2. Alan, you saw the first and fifth bodyline Tests in Sydney, didn't you?

A. Yes, but first let me describe what bodyline was. Hammond described it as:

   1. Delivered by a speed merchant,
   2. Bumped so as to fly high above the wicket,
   3. Delivered straight at the batsman,
   4. Bowled with a leg-side field of six to eight men.

Bodyline, called initially "fast leg-theory", was devised by Carr, captain of Notts, the Notts fast bowler, Larwood and Veale, and Jardine, the captain
of the M.C.C. team to Australia in 1932-33, in the Silver Grill of the Piccadilly Hotel, London at the end of the English summer of 1932.

Jardine wrote to F.R. Foster, the fast-medium bowler who helped England win the Ashes in 1911-12, asking him for his field placings. Foster had bowled "leg theory," that is, he attacked the leg stump. Foster later said: "If I had known to what purpose they were to be put, I wouldn't have given them to him."

I saw every day of the First and Fifth Tests in 1932-33. That was over 76 years ago; I was just turned 12, so that makes me 88 now.

The first ball of the First Test in Sydney was bowled by a man in a brown suit; he was Tom Garrett, aged 77, and the last survivor of the first ever Test match played in Melbourne in March 1877. His great-grandson is Peter Garrett, the singer and Federal Member for Kingsford-Smith, which includes Kensington.

Ponsford patted the ball back along the pitch and the game began. Australia did not fare well, losing early wickets.

Facing bodyline bowling, the batsman could not easily play a dead bat to a ball delivered to his body because there were four men clustered around him at leg slip, short backward leg, short square leg, and silly mid-on. He could not hook since there were at least two fieldsmen in the deep at backward square leg and deep mid-wicket. The only thing he could do was duck or take the ball on the body. In those days helmets had not been invented and batsmen did not wear chest pads or arm pads.
Q3. Will you describe Ian McCabe's innings?
A. Yes, he played one of the three great innings of his life, scoring 187 not out out of 360. At his best he could bat like Bradman, his other two great innings were 189 not out against South Africa in 1935–36 and 242 at Trent Bridge in 1938. However, he lacked Bradman's consistency and his Test average was less than half that of Bradman's.

In the First Test in Sydney he and Jim Willott put on 54 runs for the 10th wicket, of which Willott contributed four. I can still visualize McCabe going down on one knee and sweeping Harwood for six into the Paddington tunnel.

Q4. How can you tell us more about Harwood?
A. Harwood was short for a fast-bowler, only 5 feet seven inches; that is 170 cm. He had the most beautiful action I have ever seen; he ran 25 metres and delivered the ball with a high action with his head turned to the left to allow his arm to come over vertically. He delivered the ball with his whole right foot parallel to the ground, unlike Lindwall and Latham, who dragged their right leg. This put a great strain on his knee, which broke down in 1933. Unlike Brett Lee, he rarely, if ever, bowled a no-ball.

Contrary to what a lot of people may think, Harold Harwood did not like hitting batsmen, but he was a professional cricketer during the worst days of the Great Depression and he did what his captain told him to do. He could swing the ball late, his best ball was pitched on the leg stump or just outside it and could take the off bail. The left-handed Bill
Vose was not quite as fast as Larwood, but he was over six feet tall. He could bring the ball in just short of a good length and make it rise sharply. His temperament was that of a real body-line; he attacked the rib cage and, unlike Larwood, was not concerned if he hit batsmen. Richardson said that he took block two feet outside the leg stump and Vose still aimed the ball at his ribs.

I knew George Borwick, the umpire who "stood" in all five Tests in 1932-33. In the 1950's he was Vice-President of the University of New South Wales Cricket Club and he often gave talks to Club members about his experiences as an umpire. He said that "Tiger" Bill O'Reilly was a nice block off the field but was a fierce competitor on the field. When Borwick turned down a leg-before appeal, O'Reilly would shout: "It would have taken the bloody middle dolly!"

Borwick recounted that one day as Larwood was leaving the field, one of the Australian players swore at him. Larwood did the only thing he could do; he reported it to his captain. Sir Jack Jardine came to the Australian dressing room, demanding to see Woodfull, the Australian captain, but he was taking a shower, so Vic Richardson, the vice-captain, came to the door. He managed to pacify Jardine, who left. He then turned to the Australian team and said: "Which one of you bastards does not know the difference between Larwood and Jardine?"

Q5. When did you first play cricket for the Club?

A. In 1948-49 I played in a team of people from the School of Chemistry in what was Sydney Technical College.
The captain was John Gannon, who later became Registrar of the University. I rang him recently but he is not well, we played in the Public Service competition on mats in Moore Park on Saturday mornings, I captained the team for the next three seasons.

Q6. But when was the Club, as we knew it actually formed?

A. In 1951 by Dr Laurie Lawrence of the School of Geology, he had played First Grade for Balmain at the age of 17.

Q7. In what competition did the Club play?

A. The Municipal and Thirles competition. The Club's home ground was Randwick Oval, which is now the University Library lawn. In the season 1951-52 the Club played only in the B grade, performing quite well, scoring 6 for 200 on one occasion and was Runner-up.

In the following season I began playing in the B grade team. Lawrence captained the A team and Dr Russe Burden of the School of Geology captained the B team but neither team fared very well. The next season I took over the captaincy of the B team and the ensuing three years and I went to London on study leave and played for University College London.

The present oval was available in 1959 but it was not fenced. As Acting President of the Club I wrote to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Baxter, a number of times, requesting that the oval be fenced but he wanted to have a "Village Green" atmosphere, the name has stuck. I got to know Sir Philip Baxter very well and I really admired him, autocrits though he was, This University would not have become
what it did without Bates's guiding hand.

I was going to South Africa in August 1964 for a
lecture tour, then on to a conference in Vienna, and to spend
a year in London. The day before I left I drove into the
university and was pleased to see that the fence panels
had been delivered. I really do think that the fence is
my memorial.

Q8. Did you ever get any awards from the Club?
A. Yes, I received a small trophy in 1958 for being the
first player to score 2,000 runs and take 200 wickets;
2,044 runs and 283 wickets, also I received the bowling
trophy for the 2nd XI for 1962-63; 30 wickets at 12.2
and the batting trophy for the 4th XI for 1972-73; 324
runs at 24.77 when I was 32 years of age. I played
my last game for the Club in 1980 when I was 59 and
my last game of cricket in 1989 when I opened the
batting for Sydney High School Staff against the School
1st XI; I was 69.

Q9. In what way were you connected with the Club's
entry into the Grade competition?
A. In 1973 the late Clem Barrington, the Club's
President, and I were interviewed by the Grade Committee
at Cricket House in George Street, City, and the Club was
admitted to Grade status in 1973-74. A few years
later the Club won the First Grade Premiership by
defeating Petersham at Petersham Oval by 15 runs. I
saw Geoff Lawson hit three sixes in one over.
Some years later Lawson took 8 wickets for 66 in
a Test Match against the West Indies. I think
that everyone should now drink a Toast to
"Henry" for that great achievement.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for listening.
I know that I have talked a lot about myself
but I love cricket and I was associated with the
Club for many years.

Stanley Livingstone