

SPEECH FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

It is my pleasure on behalf of the organising committee to welcome you and thank you all for your attendance here today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Club which was officially established on 28th June 1966. In saying that, I would like to acknowledge the five people whose enthusiasm, dedication and (may I say) courage first set the rungs on the ladder towards what the Club is today. Those 5 people were – Jim Percy (whose son James and daughter Denise are here and who was, I am proud to say, my father-in-law), Eddie Quinton, Alf Davies (whose daughters, Carn and Denise, are with us today), Joe Cooper and Norm Millican. As you can see I have been associated with the Club in one capacity or another for just about all its existence. Serving as Vice-President under Jim Percy and Dennis Johnson for 25 years certainly helped.

The organisation of this event has been long and hard and I would like to thank the fellow members of my organising committee (Chris Lane, Kym Low, Rex Simmonds, Chris Bird and Col Rowland) for their great efforts in putting this all together. Not many sub-committees can boast of having 4 Life Members on board.

We were pleased to see the response to this evening and many former members expressed their regret in not being able to make it.

The first coach at the Club was Vic Edwards (known as VAETS) and some of those original coaches are here as well – Geoff Booth and Keith Smith. Keith Short was a coach at one time as well if memory serves me correctly. Ross Davidson (another coach from those early days) sent his apologies.

Four members of the first competition winning team (A6 grade in 1966) are present tonight – Carn and Denise (Davies), James Percy and myself.

Other thanks should be expressed to the Caterers (BBQ Spit Roast and Catering) (Louise and Samantha) for the meal and co-operation with my numerous questions.

Also Forestville RSL Club for lending us the Beer glasses, tubs of ice and donating several of the lucky door prizes which will be drawn shortly.

And let's not forget to thanks Katherine (Col Rowland's daughter) for the magnificent anniversary cake which will form part of dessert.

The committee's thanks must also go to the Tennis Club itself for its kind offer to cover any shortfall from tonight's event thus enabling us to keep the cost down as best we could.

I hope that you continue to have a great night and now call on Brian Polack – President of the Tennis Club to say a few words.