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THE HILLIER VIEW

Kevin Hillier questions the win-at-all-costs attitude

Like most sports-minded boys, when I was growing up, I wanted to play cricket for Australia. I wanted to get my hands on a baggy green cap more than anything else. Footy was big, but it was suburban and as a boy from Laverton, playing for Footscray didn't have the same grandeur as playing for Australia. I was a huge fan of Ian Redpath, Graham McKenzie then the Chappells (not Trevor) and of course the king of them all, Dennis Lillee.

The events of the last week took me back. I was fortunate that my radio career led me to meet Dennis in Perth. I was there to cover the David Bowie tour but when D.K. Lillee walked into the hotel I went weak at the knees. Dennis was no saint. Remember the bet he and Rod Marsh had in England during an Ashes series? And his clash with Javed Miandad was not from the Wisden etiquette manual. He never cheated though, and had he, I – like tens of thousands of Aussie cricket lovers – would have been devastated, as so many are right now.

I played a lot of cricket over the years and blokes shining the ball with hair gel or Vaseline

was pretty common. I can honestly say I never did it. I sweated bucketloads, so shining the ball was never an issue.

I am still scratching my head about what the Aussie cricketers did. They knocked the rorting politicians off the front page. What a wonderful country we live in. Our political leaders cheat, our number one national sporting team cheats, our number one football codes have massive clouds hanging over them still, from drug cheats. Australia the lucky country? Not exactly. We could not rely on luck so we cheated.

This win-at-all-costs mentality corrupts and compromises the core of our values and morals. A much-used sporting expression is 'Winning isn't everything – it's the only thing.' No it's not. No one likes losing and there is nothing wrong with that. It does make victory sweeter though when it comes.

I feel cheated because some men who were talented enough to fulfil the dream of getting a baggy green cap just dropped it in the sewer and we may never get rid of the smell. ■

If you have any news or events, let me know at kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au



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Briefs

Training awards

Werribee MP Tim Pallas is encouraging local students, teachers and training providers to get involved in this year's Victorian Training Awards. The winners in 16 categories will each receive \$5000 prize money and go on to represent Victoria at the 2018 Australian Training Awards. Applications for the Victorian awards will close at midnight on April 13. See education.vic.gov.au/vta for details.

Car nabbed in Tarneit

Police impounded a car in Tarneit last Tuesday night (March 27) after the driver was allegedly detected driving at 114km/h. Police spotted the car driving through a 40km/h zone of Tarneit Road about 11.20pm. The driver, a 21-year-old Hoppers Crossing man, is expected to be charged on summons.

Water committee call

Southern Rural Water is seeking five new members to join its Werribee and Bacchus Marsh Customer Consultative Committee, which meets every second month. The membership will be for a four-year term to June 30, 2022. Contact Nicole Broughton at Southern Rural Water on 5139 3100 or email NicoleBro@SRW.com.au for details.

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