



## Acknowledgements

When I first offered to bring the history of the Society up to date, I was aware of the daunting task that I had set myself. However, I did not realize what treasures I would come across in carrying on from where Eric Heilbronner left off.

The Society owes a huge debt of gratitude to Eric for the painstaking way he set about recalling the early history. He did it in two episodes, firstly up to the outbreak of the Second World War, and then another, covering the War period itself. Trying times for the Society but in the end, they more than survived. His painstaking recollections of past events would have been based on personal experiences and, like me, from reading countless Minute Books and Magazines.

It was from these two sources that the up dated history has been gleaned. I thank the Secretaries for their diligent compiling of these Minutes in such detail, which made my task much easier.

We decided that in the interests of the whole of the Society's history that I would combine all of Eric's work and mine into one document. This I have done and the history of the Society is now complete for the first 100 years.

To the Editors of the Society Magazine over the years, you have been a huge source of information regarding facts and events that took place. To the various contributors from each and every sub club, again I say a sincere thank you for documenting the "goings on" in your sections which, again, allowed me an insight into the past.

I have stuck to the facts surrounding the history of the Society and have steered clear of embellishing the history with funny or amusing stories. Those can be for someone else who would like to write that side of our history.

It has been a painstaking and rewarding task but, in the end, I believe, we have the history of our great Society documented up to the end of 2007. I steer clear of saying "fully documented" as each and every one of you will feel that certain aspects may have been omitted which, to you, should form part of our illustrious history. I am sure we all have our own ideas as to what is the definition of history.

I quite willingly pass the baton onto someone else who would like to continue in, say ten or twenty, years time.

I urge the future Executive Chairmen to ensure that it is updated regularly so that the history of one of, if not, the premier sporting clubs in South Africa, is fully documented.

My sincere thanks go to all the contributors from the various sub clubs;

Barry Jammy, in his accustomed way has handed down a precise judgement on the history of bowls;

Alan Lawson showed a straight bat in recalling the events of cricket with the occasional fast delivery thrown in.

Merlyn Munro has used all her academic skills in producing a Tour de Force on tennis;

Colin Webster has used all his tactical acumen to recount one of the newer sub clubs, War Games and

Roley Wright dived in with gusto to encompass the saga of water polo.

On going through various (nay, mountains) of magazines I came across brief histories of Ladies Hockey, originally written by Yolanda Endres, Rugby (author unknown) and the Ladies Committee, again author unknown, and have added to those in an attempt to make this document more complete.

The time and energies put in by those contributors was immense, and I thank you all for your dedication and commitment. Sadly, not all sub clubs have supplied their history. I hope that by reading this you will be spurred to rectify that omission, and thereby make the document even more complete. I fully understand the enormity of the task, but the end result is so worthwhile that the hours spent labouring through Minute Books, talking to past and older members whose recall is greater than the majority of our current membership, makes the end result totally satisfying.

Mike Dunk  
October 2008.