

BRIAN DROWN
Toast to Absent Friends

H. Wm Squash 50th Reunion May 2014

Good Evening

①
To have the privilege of proposing this toast, reminded me of its importance, it is not proposed with sadness, but with a chance to acknowledge life and its joys, and a celebration of being around to reminisce on a period of

②
one's personal experiences among people you respect.

When you're 25 or 26 and life's just a ball, and everything's in front of you, your growing family - your career - it's all going well - is something missing - no! - I don't think so - and then I found

"SQUASH"

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Not long returned on transfer as
a young stock agent & auctioneer
from Wairoa - just retired from the
Rugby scene, when the late Company
Branch Manager, Ian Yeatsstone introduced
me to the game

What a relationship!

How does that relate to "a feast for
about friends you may ask?"

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Well I'll tell you. Over my
time of active participation - say 1964
to 1984 - both physically and socially in
a growing Club and District - Robin and
I, and a host of like others, formed
bonds of real worth.

Along the way the likes of Joe
Hutchinson from Napier - one of the
then games characters.

(5)

who when I won against him
unexpectedly stood on the court
having shaken my hand said "How
could I be beaten by such an
indifferent soubt of a bastard like you"
I don't know Joe whether you're still
with us or not - but you're included
in this toast with all of your old
Mates from Squash Napier

(6)

you yourself having disappeared to
Australia driving Melbourne, Yatis, -
and the late Paul Krumerin - godfather
to one of our children

and

Graham Scott, my squash buddy
and friend

and so on - those in
my age group could expound and talk
of similar stories and friends

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The strengths of our club were formulated because we were young - and we grew together with time.

I've always had difficulties of reconciling the format of most annual General Meeting Minutes where those ^{say (15) are} ^{Chairing} reconciled as kiplingology for non attendance are named for posterity while the other 45 present

84

are not. - What a nonsense.

Realising the dangers of personalising names for fear of making omissions, I'm prepared to take that risk in mentioning here some whose names came to me when writing these notes. THEY cannot apologise for their absence and would so much enjoy being here if that were possible So!!

(9)

NEE STUART

For Graham and Margaret Wall,

1956 Melbourne Olympiad

Pat Hinton Gary Cook Sue Pingold

& Giddy Elliott, Angela Williams Graham

Scott, Luke Wilson, Robert Cox,

Arthur Hutton & ~~the~~ Graham Lowe,

Gaw Tearmenstone, DR Peter Fook, Paul

Fruenent & Ned Irwin, & John Banister

Ray Wastie Ray Woodman & John

Danielson Gary Lum Bloggs & Clancy

(10)

Doug Curtis,

MURPHY

John & Denise, (Gussy) Brian Eric advisers

Bruce Logan & Roddy Frazer, Geoff

Richards Peter Morrison & Pat (Joker)

Herrisch - people whom we knew and

loved - here's to you.

And not only for those departed -

but the many who for various reasons

could not be here tonight

So now - 50 years on - we - that
 is those of us here, can reflect on
 the past - but be delighted to be here
 in the present.

And so - having had the honour
 to present this toast - I do so, with due
 humility - and ask you to stand
 with me proudly - and drink
 to the Health of those unable to
 be here, ~~and~~ to the rejuvenation of
the departed, and to the squash
 club and its future.

TO ABSENT FRIENDS