In an earlier article [Jenkin, 1980] I examined briefly William Bragg's contribution to the development of the game of lacrosse in Adelaide during his years there as Professor of Mathematics and Physics. The likelihood of his having played a major part in the formation of the Adelaide University Sports Association (in 1897) was also mentioned. The present Secretary of the Adelaide University Union (Mr David Muir) has kindly brought to my attention a recent book detailing the origins and development of the Union [Finnis, 1975], and, while the finer details of the foundation of the Sports Association are still not discovered, Mrs Finnis does make it clear that the existence of the sporting clubs was a very important element in the move for a wider union of the University's many groups (academic, sporting and social involving staff, students and graduates). Thus in 1891, 1892 and 1893 *The Medical Students' Society Review* contained correspondence and reports on the matter of the formation of a University Sports Association, and Mrs Finnis reports that:

"On the formation of the Adelaide University Union (1895) with predominantly student committee membership, the three functioning sports clubs (Boats [1881], Tennis [1885] and Lacrosse [1889]) amalgamated and formed the Sports Association along the lines of the Sydney University Sports Union . . . , and in 1897 this body became an affiliated member of the Union."

Since Bragg played a pivotal role in the early development of the new Union, if not perhaps in the agitation for its foundation (Finnis, 1975), and since he was the instigator of the Lacrosse Club (Jenkin, 1980), I have assumed an important role for him in the foundation of the Sports Association. Such a conclusion would be strengthened by any association with the University Tennis Club, for Bragg is known to have been an active player at Cambridge before coming to Australia and to have participated in social games after his arrival (Caroe, 1978). I have recently searched the pages of *The Adelaide Observer* (only) for evidence of a greater commitment to tennis.

Bragg could not have been involved in the beginnings of the University Tennis Club, which occurred in 1885, the year before his arrival. Furthermore, in the earliest years, there was only one court and this was inadequate for formal team contests. Thus, early in 1889, players journeyed to Morphett Vale for a match, and the report reproduced by Mrs Finnis shows that "this is an account of a social occasion punctuated by a game of tennis". There was, at the same time, a plea for funds to build a second court and to repair the first one. Indeed, at a meeting of the South Australian Lawn Tennis Association (SALTA) on July 29, 1889, six new clubs were admitted to membership of the Association, including University, but the regular *Observer* reports later that year make it clear that the University Club was not playing SALTA matches. Their plans to build and repair the necessary courts apparently did not materialize in time.

If Bragg was to be seriously involved he would have to look elsewhere. He had formed the North Adelaide Lacrosse Club in 1887, and after his marriage to Gwendoline Todd in 1889 had moved with his new wife into a house on Lefevre Terrace, North Adelaide, with parklands immediately in front and the Mt. Lofty Ranges in the distance (Hutton, 1980). In the "Lawn Tennis Notes, by the Umpire" in the December 21, 1889 issue of the *Observer* (referring to SALTA fixtures), we find the following:

"The eagerly looked for match between the Zingaris and North Adelaides was played last Saturday in the presence of a large number of spectators, a clear indication of the growing interest being taken in tennis. Both clubs had out strong teams, but the Zingaris were not to be beaten, and finished 13 games to the good. This was in general measure due to their strength in singles. The first and second doubles were fine exhibitions of tennis. Leo Kaines and R. Bowen, a new but strong combination, opposed Baker and Professor Bragg, and beat them 15-12. The play of these four was much admired, each doing some splendid volleying and returning . . . (In the singles) A. Bowen was beaten by Bragg by 3 games. The play was fairly even and very good."

At this time there were six players to a team, with three doubles matches (one 15-game set each), four singles rubbers (one 11-game set each), and the match decided on the total number of games accumulated by each team.

Bragg played intermittently for the rest of the season; thus "the North Adelaides, after an interesting match, beat the Skribs last Saturday by 13 games. Bragg and Baker obtained 15-8 against Warren and Cavenagh" (Observer, 1890a); but he rarely played a singles rubber. Similarly, in a "Retrospect of the Season 1889-90, by the Umpire" (Observer, 1890b), it was noted that North Adelaide finished second on the premiership ladder without perhaps fulfilling its full potential:

"The North Adelaides started with a loud flourish of trumpets. But owing to internal dissensions they failed to do as well as was expected of them. Although having such brilliant men as Baker, Gunson, Stuart, Bragge and Swift in their ranks, they were unable once to defeat the Zingaris . . . Professor Bragge and Dr Swift did not fulfil expectations!"

One may note again, as in the lacrosse reports (Jenkin, 1980), the mild but only thinly disguised sentiments of hostility, Bragg was heavily involved in both academic and non-academic affairs at the University, where he was highly regarded and
appreciated. The occasional stinging reference to him in the sporting press would appear to reflect town-versus-gown discontents, for it was also directed at others who would later appear in University sporting teams, and who, like Bragg, must have had University affiliations.

While the 1889-90 tennis season was in progress, the necessary improvements were occurring at the University: "In December 1889 the (University Tennis) Club, along with its welcomed dozen lady players, had been provided with a second court... and repairs to the first old court had been carried through"; and thus "in 1890 the Tennis Club joined the Lawn Tennis Association... , losing the Premiership (match) to North Adelaide by only three games" (Finnis, 1975 and Observer 1890c). We shall not be surprised, perhaps, to learn from the Observer of November 1, 1890 that:

"The University, on their courts last Saturday, can boast of being the only Club who ever put down the Zingaris, which has been a wonderful success for Club tennis since its establishment three years ago... This year is the first appearance of the University in the Association. They have done wonderfully well so far, as they are now nearly through the first round, without a defeat... Their team has been constantly changed for each match. One Saturday they were represented by Baker, Gunston, Campbell, Bragg, Isbister and Hone. Taking it all round, this is the strongest team they have yet put into the field... Campbell and Professor Bragg were the next to appear. They were opposed by Goodhart and Gerald Kaines. The latter pair failed to play the game that was expected of them and lost 12-15".

But it was allegiance and affection that took Bragg to the University Club, and not a burning desire to play regularly in top competition; for he clearly played only when asked, either against particularly strong opposition or during the long summer vacation when other players were unavailable. In the 1890-91 season, for example, he played twice in November and twice in December, but not at all in the new year. When he did play it was as a doubles partner for the brilliant but erratic Baker, and only very rarely in the singles. In the new year F. Hone and several other very good young players joined the club, and Bragg willingly gave way.

Similarly, during the 1891-92 season the Observer reported on December 19 that:

"The Zingaris upset the calculations of the 'varsity supports on Saturday by beating the University team by 7 games. The loss of the match can fairly be attributed to Baker, and it is quite time this player gave up playing for himself and tried to help the club... Owing to the excellent play of Professor Bragg in the first double Leo and Gerald Kaines were beaten by Baker and Bragg 15-11. Gerald Kaines was also beaten by the Professor in the third singles, 11-6. The Professor has evidently lost none of his old power by his temporary retirement".

By March 1892 the Hone brothers, Baker and other University players were in the forefront of tennis again, winning the SALTA doubles and singles championships and carrying the University Tennis Club to its first premiership win. Reporting of tennis in the Observer declined markedly in 1892-93, but at the end of the season a long report appeared under the heading "The Season 1892-93, by Dedans" (Observer, 1893). The pre-eminence of the University Club was discussed at length, and in reviewing its players individually Dedans noted that "... of the other members of the premier team Professor Bragg on a few occasions put in an appearance, always to the benefit of the Club...".

I have followed the newspaper reports no further; Bragg's active participation in tennis, as with lacrosse, was clearly drawing to a close.

In conclusion and by way of summary, two quotations from Mrs Finnis' book:

"Professor Bragg was twenty three in 1886 when he was appointed to the Chair of Mathematics and Physics, and he stayed with the University up to 1908. So very young a man was close to his students, played lacrosse and was awarded a Blue, mended the University's electrical system when it broke down, (and) saw the Union through from its beginnings to the possession of its own building (which he helped to finance by way of a personal loan)...".

"... young William Bragg...; he combined intelligence and physical prowess and respected them both, and his coming in 1886 was of enormous benefit to the University and the student body in every conceivable way".

REFERENCES


The Adelaide Observer (1890a), March 29.

The Adelaide Observer (1890b), April 26.

The Adelaide Observer (1890c), October 4.

The Adelaide Observer (1893), April 15.

Editor's Note: A short biography of William Henry Bragg has just been published in Int. J. Radiation Oncology Biol. Phys. 7 83-97 (1981). Reprint request may be made to the author, Dr J. A. del Regato, Department of Radiology (114), Veteran's Administration Hospital, 13000 North 30th St, Tampa, Florida 33612, U.S.A.

Two Week Course on Radiation Protection

Between 2-13 February the Laboratory conducted an intensive postgraduate course on Radiation Protection in the Mining and Milling of Radioactive ores. This course which covered all aspects of radiation health in uranium and thorium mining brought together 22 participants from the industry, associated exploration and research companies and State and Territory regulatory authorities.

Mornings were devoted to formal lectures and the afternoons to laboratory and simulated field experiences carried out by all participants, and designed to make them familiar with practical aspects of radiation monitoring.

It is planned to publish the lecture material, which should serve as a useful reference source for those working in the field. It is likely that there will be a need to repeat the course at about two yearly intervals.

Australian Radiation Laboratory